

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



THE NATIONAL LIVESTOCK MONTHLY

JUNE 1943

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Association of
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RAILROADS
Washington D. C.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SHOULD HAVE HAD CEILINGS

I have read with interest the arguments in the press about price control and ceilings on live cattle. I am of the opinion that great damage has already been done by not having a ceiling on live cattle. Every man that can lease or buy some grass or feed is buying cattle. The local merchant, drug store man, hardware man, wheat farmer, and country banker are buying cattle and hoarding them against the time when they will go higher, as they reason, without a ceiling. With a ceiling these cattle would be going to the feed-lots and markets. As conditions are now, cattle are being collected and hoarded behind a dam that will break one of these days and swallow all of us, the legitimate cattle producer along with the would-be's and hoarders. These cattle ought to be going to market and ought to be eaten instead of stored up on foot to pour out later on a market that can't absorb them.—FELIX MUNDALL, Baca County, Colo.

(There is much food for thought in the above, but recent developments indicate that there is little occasion for further concern about prices going up. The administration is moving to bring them down in line with current meat ceilings, either through the working of the controlled meat purchase plan, with the recommendations contained in the meat industry program, or, failing in that, through the imposition of ceilings on live animals, which the majority of producers and many administration officials wish to avoid if possible.—Ed.)

WHEN DO CATTLE GAIN MOST?

In your March, 1943, issue you had some notes on experimental work in grazing done by some outfit in Colorado. Could you tell me what government agency that was and how I could get more information on their work? I was especially interested in the statement that cattle put on their biggest gain in the fore part of the summer. I have always heard it the other way around.—FRANK C. BOSLER, Carbon County, Wyo.

(The notes referred to were those of the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, headquartered at Fort Collins, Colo. Charles A. Connaughton, director of the station, replies below.—Ed.)

BIGGEST GAINS COME FIRST

Our studies of cattle weights have shown that Hereford cattle on short-grass ranges produce high gains during the period May 10 to August 10, but in August their rate of gain begins to decline, and by late October or early November may show actual losses, in spite of seemingly ample grass feed.

The data on short-grass ranges have
(Continued on Page 34)

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Number 1

THEY ASK US TO RISK A RUINOUS DISEASE

By DR. C. U. DUCKWORTH

A BULLETIN WHICH I HAVE RECEIVED indicates that on April 23, 1941, Carlos Garcia-Mata, former commercial attache of the Argentine embassy, presented what is designated as a lecture at Harvard University. The lecture was entitled, "The Problem of Beef in the United States-Argentine Relations."

In my opinion it is regrettable when misstatements are presented on subjects of importance in our institutions of learning. The lecture could do nothing but antagonize or mislead those who heard or read it, even though they might not understand all the issues involved. The lecture spans us roundly, and some of us do not think we have a spanking coming.

The speaker starts with a quotation attributed to Mayor Fiorello La Guardia, and I quote from the lecture, "They say I am blunt and outspoken, and to prove

it I am going to talk about a very delicate question: Argentine meat. I will simply say that I am very glad to live in a continent where the greatest problem between the two most important countries is just a row about a few cans of corned beef." Apparently the good mayor of New York had not been apprised of the true situation, as South American corned beef has been coming to this country for years, and the cattlemen of this country not long ago agreed to the purchase of a large amount of South American canned corned beef for use by the military forces.

The question involved actually concerns fresh meats. We are advised in the lecture that we behold 280,000,000 persons living in 20 odd countries peacefully with each other, having practically no big unsolved political and economic problem between them, and we are told that, instead of congratulating ourselves,

we should be ashamed of ourselves because of our apparent inability to solve the small problem of economic antagonism by compromise. Tariffs on wool are mentioned, duty on corn, canned beef, and linseed, but meat is set forth as the principal problem of economic antagonism. "Once this is solved, the others will be easily ironed out." From this statement one must assume that the importation into this country of meat is not all that is desired.

As is well known to agriculturists and especially owners of livestock within the United States, the principal reason for the embargo against meats of some of the foreign countries is the prevalence in such countries of livestock diseases not present in the United States.

In the lecture, we find a statement that in 1926 "a disastrous outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease occurred in Scotland. It was attributed to fresh carcasses of hogs imported from the Continent." This statement in substance points out that an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease is brought about by the importation of fresh meats, which is what the United States producer of meat has been trying to avoid.

Continuing, the lecturer points out that the Royal Foot and Mouth Disease Research Committee discovered that the virus of foot-and-mouth disease would remain alive in frozen carcasses as long as 42 days in the blood and 76 days in the bones. Then we are told that total embargo on meat is too drastic and that a 21-day quarantine for imported boneless meat would be sufficient. Even a superficial analysis of these points is most interesting. If the British research people found that the foot-and-mouth virus lived for 42 days in the blood of frozen carcasses, how could the most optimistic individual contend that a quarantine of 21 days for imported boneless meat would be safe?

The lecturer says that England even thought that the 21-day quarantine was too much, "compared with the hardships it would impose on the trade, and contented themselves with a certificate from the infected exporting countries ascertaining that all animals were inspected before killing and found healthy."

At this point I must inject my opinion that there is not a veterinarian in the world who is familiar with foot-and-mouth disease and who values his reputation and integrity who would not testify that foot-and-mouth disease in its



It can't happen here? It did happen. Eight hundred animals were slaughtered in this trench because foot-and-mouth disease was imported.

June, 1943

incubative stages cannot be determined by inspection and that it is transmissible by the carcasses of the animals in which it is present.

Mr. Garcia-Mata says that the United States has eradicated foot-and-mouth disease "the hard way" and that in Argentina foot-and-mouth disease is of "a mild character." If we were to assume for sake of discussion only that the statement is correct, which it is not, would it not seem logical that Argentina should eradicate the disease "of mild character" so that the Argentine meat producer could present his meat on a basis comparable from a livestock disease standpoint with that produced in the United States and not ask us to jeopardize our agriculture and economy.

The statement that we did the job "the hard way" would imply an easy way which theoretically at least should be applicable to a country where the disease is "of mild character." I agree with Mr. Garcia-Mata that the problem is not so great that it would be impossible of solution.

The taxpayers of the United States spend enormous sums of money on the eradication and control of the communicable livestock diseases. Many livestock producers have suffered loss of their animals and much business as a result of such eradication and control.

In view of this fact it should be readily comprehensible why the American agriculturist is desirous of everything possible being done to prevent importation of foreign diseases. It would appear to me that the more logical approach for affected countries would be to eradicate their highly communicable diseases before requesting lifting of American embargoes.

The lecturer criticizes our Tariff Act of 1930, in that a law enacted to supersede a regulation uses the word "country" instead of "region." To quote from the lecture, "This neat little change embargoed a whole region, Patagonia, where the disease is not known, just because the cattle-growing region 1,000 miles north was infected."

It is my understanding that Patagonia is governed by Argentine laws and that importation of livestock and meats into Patagonia from the northern part of Argentina is common. Therefore, if it were a fact that Patagonia was not affected by foot-and-mouth disease, it is susceptible through various means at any time. Experience in the United States has proved that foot-and-mouth disease does not respect district or state lines. It can be carried by live animals, by carcasses, by birds, by wild beasts, and by man with his appliances and clothing over great distances to set up new foci where the disease was not known previously. Witness the 1914 outbreak in the United States, when the disease spread to 22 states and the District of Columbia and from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans.

The incident of changing the word "region" to "country" is described as "Yankee trickery" and "a plot of the western farmers." It is difficult to understand how any man can be so accused for endeavoring to save his business or, in cowman terminology, "to keep someone from nailing his hide on the fence."

The lecturer states that "our mistake" has been poisoning the Argentine-United States relations for the past 10 years and that the inability to correct it is perhaps the gravest failure of our good-neighbor policy. It is stated that "President Roosevelt tried to iron it out in May, 1935, when he agreed to the United States-Argentine sanitary convention, especially aimed to correct that particular wrong," and further "when the Argentines saw that the convention was not going to be ratified at all, they began to realize that the good-neighbor policy was just so many words not backed by deeds."

We then find mention of "anti-Yankee sentiment," and in reference thereto it is stated that a European competitor found it easy to add fuel to the fire. Quoting from the lecture, "Germany, knowing that meat was the kernel of the United States-Argentine ill feeling, stepped up her purchases of Argentine frozen beef from 11,000,000 pounds in 1935 to 110,000,000 pounds in 1938 to the astonished delight of the Argentines, who neither requested nor expected that much."

It is stated that the case is a wonderful example to them (the Argentines) of the theory that "a good neighbor" is one who patronizes the neighborhood store.

Continuing, the lecturer says that the Argentines now know that some of the frozen meat that Germany bought was of no use to her and that it was canned and resold to Holland at a loss, and that Germany in her dealings took into account the intangibles of good will gained

by the action. The inference in this statement is unmistakable.

It is a well-known fact that foot-and-mouth disease is prevalent in Germany. Recognizing that point and comparing it with the absence of the disease in the United States should make the situation entirely different to one who wished to see the facts and thereby the differences.

A logical question arises at this point: Because a country infected with foot-and-mouth disease buys meat from another country infected with foot-and-mouth disease for the sole purpose of good will, should an uninfected country buy meat from an infected country in the interest of good will and thereby jeopardize its livestock and food production for many years to come? The answer is self-evident.

Mr. Garcia-Mata points out the extreme importance of solidarity of the Americas. I heartily agree. He also says that his country and ours should be working out compromises for the benefit of each other. To this I also agree. He goes on to say that even a compromise would not solve all the problems and that it would only stop the misuse of sanitary regulations for economic gains. It is represented that Argentine surplus beef is around \$90,000,000 annually and that if a third of it could be sent to the United States the whole problem of the unbalanced trade would be solved. Let us keep in mind this reference to \$30,000,000 worth of beef, as it will be referred to later. The lecturer adds that this amount of meat could very well be brought into the United States for purchase by those in the lower income bracket.

For sake of discussion, let us imagine, if we can, that two thrifty American housewives would call at a retail meat market and one would say, "I am in the higher income bracket, and therefore



The look in these affected cows' faces may well be interpreted as a plea to do our best to prevent a recurrence.

give me American meat," and the other would say, "I am in the lower income bracket, and therefore give me South American meat." If such a condition were actually to be brought about, the differential in price could not remain constant because the scraps from the table of persons in the low income bracket could and no doubt would convey foot-and-mouth disease to our herds, thereby necessitating destruction of such herds. This would affect the price differential to a point where those in the higher income brackets would be paying more and more or there would be more persons in the lower income brackets and the necessity for greater importation would be apparent.

Mr. Garcia-Mata reaches an all-time high in something or other when he says "it is interesting to note that the Far West is more adapted to the production of buffalo than to cattle." Are we to infer from this that Mr. Garcia-Mata suggests that we go out of the cattle business and raise buffalo? Rather a quaint idea, that, and difficult to comprehend. To carry such inference to its logical conclusion might even revive the bow and arrow and the coonskin cap of Davy Crockett.

With further reference to the study of the possibility of importing \$30,000,000 worth of beef annually from Argentina, we find the following quotation: "Think of the extraordinary amount of good will that will be gained by the mere announcement of the fact that the United States will study this possibility not only in Argentina but also in Brazil and Uruguay, which are also beef exporting countries." In this quotation a complete nullification of Mr. Garcia-Mata's statement of "\$30,000,000 worth of beef" is apparent. Why should Brazil and Uruguay as beef exporting countries be so interested in the United States receiving meat from Argentina unless such receipt establishes a precedent or a toe in the door, so to speak, for exports from those countries?

The lecturer declares that the most skeptical veterinarian, even if he comes from the West or even from Missouri, will be convinced that there is absolutely no virus alive in the meat imported. As a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the California Medical Association, the National Public Health Association, a veterinarian resident in our most westerly state, and a veteran of two outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in California, one as a field veterinarian and the other as veterinarian in charge for the state, I must disagree with Mr. Garcia-Mata.

I recall in 1924, the slaughter of thousands of animals because of meat scraps from a country affected with foot-and-mouth disease finding their way into our garbage and through the medium of garbage into hogs and from hogs to other livestock. At that time 109,855 animals were killed and buried at a cost to the state and federal government of \$6,150,-

382. It is pretty well agreed, however, by agriculturists that the amount expended was a mere drop in the bucket compared with the economic losses occasioned by quarantines. It has been estimated that foot-and-mouth disease has cost the United States in the several outbreaks we have had around \$200,000,000.

In 1929, California had a second outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, which was started from garbage fed to hogs. A report from Great Britain indicates that of the initial 32 infected premises in 1942, 18 involved garbage-fed hogs.

Again I disagree with Mr. Garcia-Mata in his statement that it is an easy job to destroy the virus in meat. We grant that the virus can be destroyed by heat and by exposure to certain chemicals, but to the best of my knowledge, this is thoroughly impractical in so far as the treatment of meat is concerned. As to the destruction of the virus in the living animal, as mentioned in the lecture, that still remains to be demonstrated. To me it is regrettable that the many misstatements and an antagonistic presentation should be made by a representative of our southern neighbor.

Facts having to do with scientific and economic problems must be recognized before solutions of problems may be solved.

During our present situation in which the United States is facing a meat shortage, there may be those who would propose the importation of South American meat as a means of alleviation. Considering that the livestock of the United States has no resistance to foot-and-mouth disease and that it is the opinion of scientists and practical minded men that slaughter and destruction of the animals is the most rapid and economic method of eradication, it should be apparent that importations from affected countries could do nothing but bring about an aggravation of the present situation, not only as to meat, but also as to milk and dairy products. Rather, a way might be found by which South American meats could be purchased by the Allies for shipment into the Atlantic to supply our fighting forces and our Allies in Africa and Europe. This would leave our own meat available for consumption within the continental United States and for shipment to our insular possessions in the Pacific and to our Allies on that side of the world.

It is reported that Australia and New Zealand supply meat to our forces, and we appreciate that fact.

I cannot refrain from reiteration that in my opinion meats imported from countries infected with foot-and-mouth disease could serve no purpose other than aggravate our shortage of livestock products and through disease control and eradication add a tremendous expenditure of public funds by an already sorely pressed people.

The author, Dr. Duckworth, is administrator of the division of animal industry in California's department of agriculture at Sacramento.

CATTLE NUMBERS AND FEED SUPPLIES

By F. E. MOLLIN

THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST in the cattle and beef situation today. The relative meat shortage despite record cattle numbers has been publicized from one end of the country to the other. Many consumers are erroneously led to believe that the livestock producer has fallen down on the job, when, as a matter of fact, total meat production has been steadily increasing. It is true that the production of beef during the past year was not so great as it might have been without government regulation, when one considers the record cattle numbers and the large supply of feed available. Uncertainty over future conditions caused many feeders to send their stock to market from 30 to 90 days earlier than intended, thereby losing much tonnage. Furthermore, the relatively high price scale is encouraging many newcomers to enter the cattle business, thereby absorbing stock that otherwise would have gone to the market and swelled the receipts, both for immediate slaughter and deferred marketing via feed-lots. Unfortunately, this trend has been accentuated by easy credit. In this connection, it can be said that the revival of the Regional Agriculture Credit Corporation was not needed, although probably most of the people availing themselves of such loans could have secured credit elsewhere and thus become a party to helping stock every nook and cranny of the country.

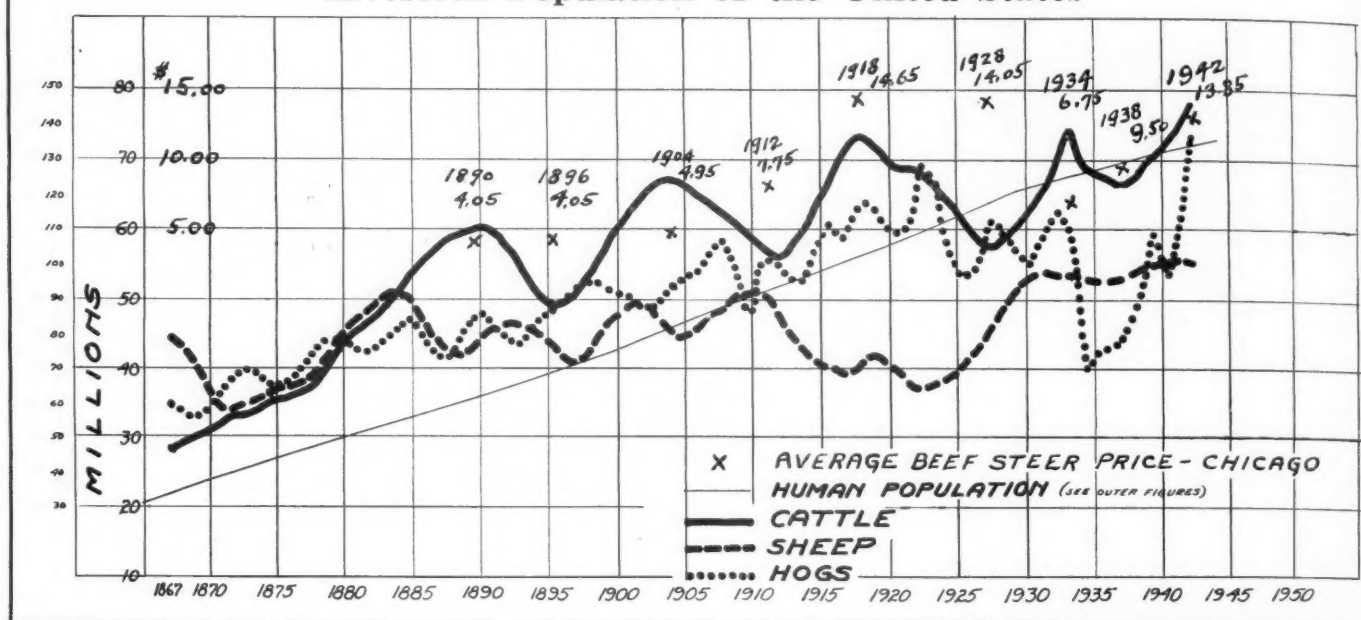
Some facts and graphs are presented here for the reader's consideration, as now is the time for the western cattleman to plan what he is going to do in the next few years.

The graph on "Livestock Population of United States" was originally prepared by John T. Caine III, of the Union Stock Yards of Chicago. The writer has

Production of Beef

In 1940 our total production of beef, veal, lamb, mutton, and pork was 18,994,000,000 pounds; in 1941 we set a new record with a production of 19,494,000,000 pounds; in 1942, again a new record of 21,680,000,000. It is estimated that the production this year will be 23,214,000,000; but it is interesting to note that, whereas beef and veal increased from 7,182,000,000 in 1940 to 8,095,000,000 in 1941 to 8,835,000,000 in 1942, the estimate for this year is reduced to 8,674,000,000, despite the fact that there was an increase of some 3,000,000 cattle shown on hand January 1, 1943, as compared with the revised figure for a year earlier.

Livestock Population of the United States



taken the liberty of adding to it the average beef steer price at Chicago for each peak and valley shown thereon, beginning with 1890.

It will be noted that, in a general way, cattle have fairly well kept pace with the increase in human population. A few weeks ago, ex-President Hoover said that we had on hand very few more cattle than we had in 1918, whereas there had been a sharp increase in the human population since that time. While this is true, he did not, however, take into account the fact that, under normal conditions existing prior to this war, we

were producing a great deal more beef and veal per animal unit than we did 25 years ago. This is because we now are almost entirely on a cow and a calf basis and consequently our annual calf crop is much greater per million head of cattle than it was formerly. By way of example, on January 1, 1922, our cattle population was 68,795,000. Our production of beef and veal that year was 7,440,000,000 pounds, but in reaching this total we reduced our cattle numbers 1,249,000 head. On January 1, 1940, our cattle population was 68,769,000. We produced that year, 8,025,000,000 pounds

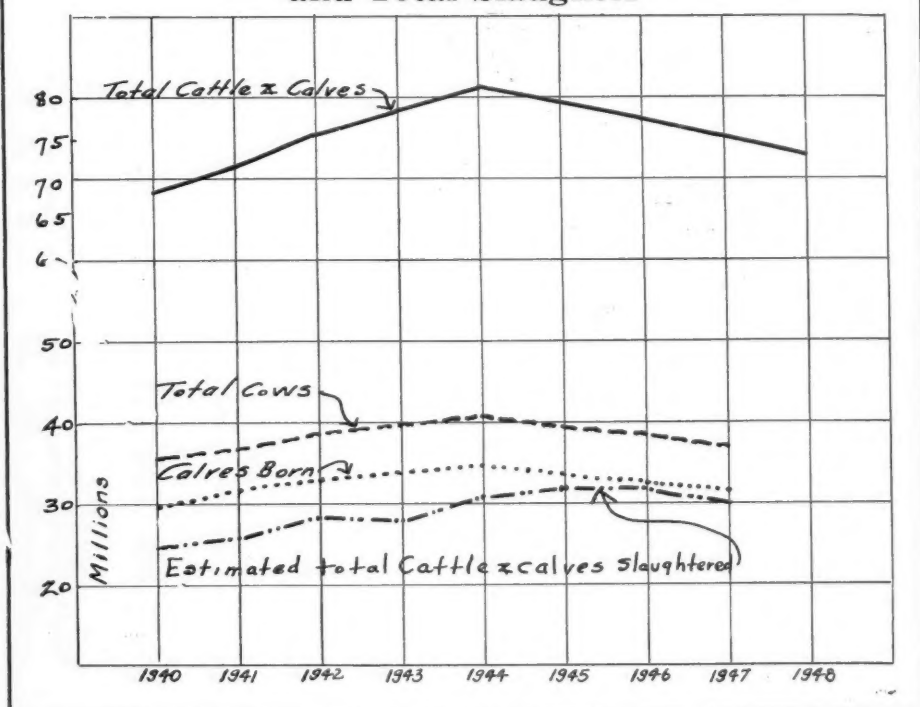
of beef and veal, but at the same time increased total numbers 2,865,000 head.

The graph on "Production and Consumption of Feed Grains" is largely self-explanatory. It shows that we are approaching a rather dangerous situation, inasmuch as the number of grain-consuming animal units has suddenly got completely out of balance with the production of feed grains. The fact that we have continued to increase the amount of grain fed to livestock simply means that it has been done by exhausting current reserves, and if we should happen to have only an ordinary crop of coarse grains this year the livestock numbers would be still further out of balance. It is expected that there will be an increase in cattle numbers this year of 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 head and a substantial increase in hog numbers. If we should have a poor crop of feed grains, it would be almost a calamity. There is one bright spot in the situation, and that is that the Department of Agriculture estimates there will be an increase in the amount of protein available for the year 1943.

According to a bulletin issued by the department on February 23, 1943, it is estimated that there will be 6,624,000 tons of oil cake and meal available for 1943 compared with 5,100,000 tons in 1942. The increase is expected to come principally from soy bean cake and meal. The department's estimate for the supply of feed grain units for the 1943-44 season (fiscal year) shows a decline of 405,000,000 bushels from the year just drawing to a close, while the grain consuming animal units, according to its tabulation, will increase 16,000,000 and the feed grain supply per animal unit decrease from 29.3 to 24.7 bushels. This is on the basis of average yields for the coming crop season.

The graph on "Estimated Cattle Population, Calves Born, and Total Slaughter-

Estimated Cattle Numbers, Calves Born, and Total Slaughter

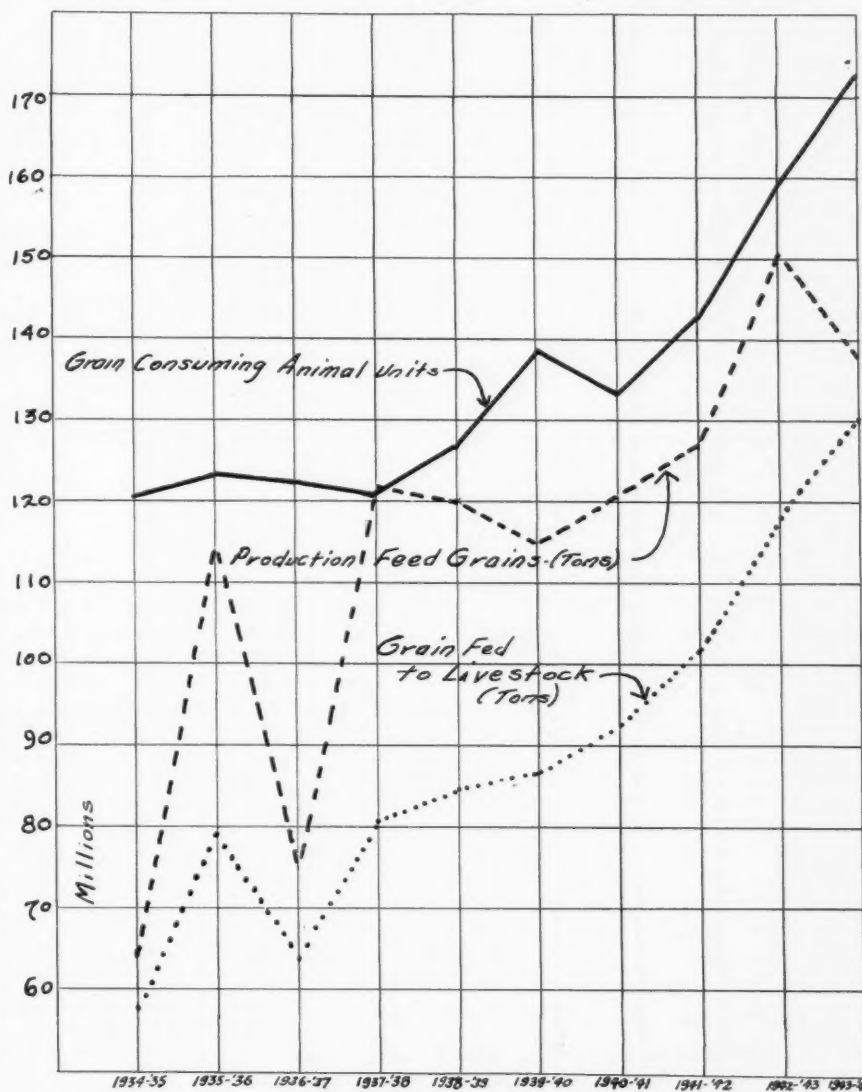


ter" is prepared for the purpose of showing what we must do in the way of marketing if we are to have our cattle numbers down to 73,000,000 head on January 1, 1948. It will be noted that the estimate of cattle and calves on hand January 1 next is 81,000,000. This is in line with current prospects, based on a slightly reduced production of beef and veal this year (government estimate). Congressman West, of Texas, put some figures into the record of the Ways and Means Committee hearing on renewal of the Reciprocal Trade Act which he said he had secured from Agriculture, indicating that there would be 81,500,000 cattle on January 1 next. We have only shown it as 81,000,000. From there on we have assumed that the cattle population would be reduced 2,000,000 a year for the following four years and have indicated below what it would take in the way of marketing to accomplish such a reduction. (This also assumes about average cattle imports—slightly less than recent peak imports from Mexico, average calf crop in relation to cow numbers, average death loss, etc.) It will be noted that, whereas we slaughtered last year approximately 28,000,000 cattle and calves and estimate that approximately the same number will be slaughtered this year, the slaughter has to go up to 32,000,000 and stay there for about two years to bring the reduction in total numbers indicated above. This would have to be accompanied by heavier marketing of cows, thereby reducing the calf crop as indicated.

It should be understood that the above is presented only as food for thought. Such a program has not been officially approved by the American National Live Stock Association, but careful consideration should be given the matter in the coming months. The writer would not even suggest it if he did not think it was completely in line with the war effort. The graphs clearly indicate that feed production is not keeping pace with livestock numbers. We might find a situation this fall where the demand from the Corn Belt was not equal to the supply of animals available for feeding. If such a situation develops, the ranchmen could meet it by marketing more heavily of cows and anything which carried sufficient fat for immediate slaughter. It is evident that by increasing the slaughter up to 32,000,000 head per year, it would have to increase the total supply of beef and veal, although included therein would necessarily be less grain-finished animals or else such animals would not carry the normal degree of finish.

It seems that such a program would have the effect of killing two birds with one stone: First, augmenting immediately the supply of beef; and, second, putting the house in order so that we will not be so tremendously overproduced when the war is over.

Production and Consumption of Feed Grains



Grain Consuming Animal Units: Based on the estimated number of livestock on farms January 1 each year: Weights used: Horses and mules, 1.14; milk cows, 1.00; other, .51; hogs, 0.87; sheep, 0.04; chickens, 0.045.

Production of Feed Grains (tons): Based on estimated total production of corn, oats, barley, and grain sorghums for grains, and the estimated amount of wheat and rye fed to livestock.

Grain Fed to Livestock (tons): Estimate of the total tonnage of the six grains fed to livestock.

Explanatory Notes: 1934-35 covers the grain production for 1934 and the estimated number of livestock on January 1, 1935, and so on for several years. This on the basis of the grain fed through the period covering parts of two years. For 1943-44, grain production is based on intentions-to-plant report of March, 1943, of intended 1943 acreage and average yields. Animal units for January 1, 1944, are based on assumed continued increase in livestock numbers. Grain to be fed 1943-44, basis increased livestock numbers.

MEAT ANIMAL PRODUCTION

In 1942 the volume of meat animal production reached a new all-time record and the increase that year over 1941 was the largest, both relatively and in pounds, for any year on record, with an estimated total production of cattle, hogs, and sheep of 41,300,000,000 pounds, according to the Department of Agriculture. This figure represents an increase of 4,800,000,000 pounds, or 13 per cent

over 1941, which was the previous record year. Cattle and calf production is estimated at 17,900,000,000 pounds for 1942, the largest on record and about 7 per cent over 1941 production. The 1942 production of 21,100,000,000 pounds of hogs was up about 3,600,000,000 pounds, or 21 per cent above the production figure for 1941, which was greater than in any previous year. Sheep and lamb production in 1942 is estimated at 2,300,000,000 pounds—2 per cent over the 1941 record.

Congress Should Ratify All Trade Agreements

THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS are excerpts from the testimony of Executive Secretary F. E. Mollin of the American National Live Stock Association at hearings before the House Ways and Means Committee in the matter of extension of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act:

MR. MOLLIN. Mr. Chairman, (Robert L. Doughton, N. C.), of course I think we all agree on one thing, and that is that the first thing we are all interested in is in winning the war; and then, in planning for after the war, it seems to me that we all have a great responsibility, and I think that one of the most important things that this committee and this Congress can do is to be looking ahead to the position that we will be in after the war.

I want to call your attention to the fact that we have a tremendous expansion in agriculture. I think that agriculture generally, including the livestock industry, is making a perfectly heroic effort to supply the food to win the war and that they are doing so without any regard to the position that they will be left in when the war is over.

I would like to call your attention to the fact that we produced in this coun-

try in 1940, 18,900,000,000 pounds of meat; in 1941 we set a new record with 19,500,000,000 pounds of meat; and in 1942 we set a new record with 21,700,000,000 pounds of meat. Although maybe some of you people here in Washington who had difficulty in getting it wondered where it went, it went into domestic consumption, except for that which went to our Army, and certainly no one begrudges that. Less than 1 per cent of the beef produced in 1942 went to lend-lease. In fact, I think it was less than one-half of 1 per cent. The estimate for this year, 1943, is that we again will expand our meat production in this country to a total of 1,500,000,000 pounds more than the record production of last year.

In building up that tremendous meat production we have increased our cattle herds to more than 78,000,000 cattle. In 1917 we had a little over 73,000,000 cattle. We now have 5,000,000 more cattle than we had at the conclusion of the previous war, and everything indicates that at the end of this year we are liable to go well over the 80,000,000 mark in cattle numbers.


We have on hand the greatest number of hogs ever in this country, and the record indicates that again at the end

of this year we are going to have substantially more hogs than we had at the beginning. In sheep, we touched the peak a year ago, but they are up near a record production. So we have tremendous production of cattle, hogs, and sheep.

There is one thing about the livestock industry that is unlike some of the manufacturing industries. When this is all over and the demand tapers off, we can't just lock up the plant. It goes on for several years; with cattle it takes several years to make any important change, either up or down in production. It is going to take us years, under ordinary conditions, to liquidate the surplus we are building up in cattle today.

In the talk that I have heard—and I have listened in more or less during the past week—most of the discussion has been on the basis that you were either an isolationist or a high-tariff man; that there wasn't any possible middle ground. Well, now, I would like to call your attention to the fact that under the rates that were prescribed for our products in the Smoot-Hawley tariff bill we were not isolationists, and we can show you that on many of the items in which the tariff has since been cut the imports under the Hawley-Smoot rates were very substantial.

Personally, I don't believe in a tariff of exclusion. We should have rates that



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President

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When a blackleg vaccine with the protection "batting average" of Cutter Blacklegol is available—there's small excuse for any cattle-raiser to lose stock from blackleg!

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will give our industry protection when production is very heavy and the price trend is downward, and, on the other hand, when we reach the other point of the cycle, I think we should have rates that will give the consumer protection and that will allow imports to come in here without damage to our industry when our own production is light. . . .

The time that we really need a tariff, of course, is when we are going to have a low level of prices, and unfortunately as we approach the time when this vast production might dam up on us, we find that our tariff rates have been substantially reduced. We had a taste of what will happen in 1936 when the Canadian trade agreement was made effective and we had very heavy imports of Canadian cattle at certain of the northern markets in the United States.

I want to discuss with you briefly the method of making these trade agreements as it applies to our industry. . . . By the time the notice is sent out—the official notice of intention to negotiate a trade agreement—it is our understanding that the trade agreements division has already had several weeks of negotiation with representatives of the foreign government, and that by the time they publish that list they have in effect agreed with the foreign government that they will consider and negotiate reductions in the tariff on the items published. . . .

But in the main, in the schedules that apply to us, once they have notified us that they intend to negotiate such an agreement, we find that every one of those items has been covered by tariff reductions. It does not seem to me it gives us anywhere near the chance that the representatives of the foreign governments have.

Then we come down and make our case before the Committee for Reciprocity Information and some other committee writes the trade agreements. That is a roundabout way. We would rather come before a committee like this, even though you have divergent views as to what the tariff should be, and make our case to people who are responsible to the folks back home, and take what we get out of it, than to have to go through that procedure that I have just detailed.

I want to give you a few examples of how it affects us. In the case of hides, the trade agreements act says that whenever the President finds as a fact that the existing rate is a barrier to trade, he can reduce the duty up to 50 per cent. Well, now, we had a 10 per cent ad valorem rate on hides. It was a nominal duty, about 1 cent per pound or less, under ordinary conditions. They reduced that rate in the Argentine agreement as much as they could, so that now it is 5 per cent instead of 10 per cent. No possible finding of fact could have been made that that tariff of 10 per cent ad valorem was a barrier

to trade. We always get large imports of hides from South America. They are coming in today.

After that agreement was made, after the ceilings were put on American hides, domestic hides, of 15 cents a pound and then raised to 15½ cents a pound a few months later—a year ago last fall that raise was made—they actually allowed Argentine hides to come into this country and sell for as much as 4 or 5 cents a pound above the ceiling price on domestic hides. I am glad to say they remedied that, but that is an example of the way things work.

Then, on canned beef, we had a tariff of 6 cents a pound, not less than 20 per cent ad valorem, and no one can say that that tariff was a barrier to trade. . . .

In the case of Mexican cattle, they reduced the tariff on cattle, of course, in the Canadian agreements, first on calves weighing less than 175 pounds, later in the second agreement that was raised to less than 200 pounds, and on cattle weighing more than 700 pounds, but there was a gap between the calves weighing 175 to 200 pounds and the cattle weighing 700 pounds, and that was covered in the Mexican agreement.

Almost immediately after that agreement went into effect on January 30—I believe the date was mentioned a few minutes ago—of this year the Mexicans increased the export duty. I should not say they increased the duty. They

DID YOU KNOW that twice as many children die from whooping cough as die from any other childhood disease?

You might think it would be diphtheria. Or smallpox. But these are known as "killers," consequently far more youngsters are vaccinated against them than are protected against whooping cough.

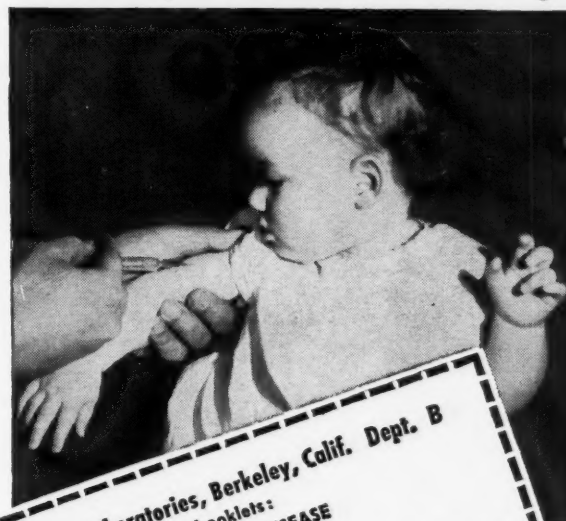
There is a parallel in cattle-raising.

Blackleg and, where it prevails, anthrax are known as killers and vaccination is the rule. Cutter Blacklegol and Charbonol have played no small part in making losses from these diseases infinitely small.

But "shipping fever" and abortion (Bang's disease) take a yearly toll in dollars many times that of the "killers." Why? Simply because many cattlemen accept these losses as acts of ill-natured Providence instead of getting busy and vaccinating.

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increased the valuation on which they figured the duty, which amounts to the same thing, and on the basis of that increase in valuation they immediately took up 80 per cent of the reduction, so that the net effect of that was, so far as we are concerned, that it nullified the spirit and intent of the reciprocal trade act, and they transferred from Uncle Sam's Treasury to the Mexican Treasury 80 per cent of the amount of the duty that was forgiven under that trade agreement.

I talked to a gentleman over in the Department who is interested in this matter, and he told me that they did not get into the Mexican agreement a restriction that they could not perform in that fashion. That should have been put in there. It would have been put in there if this Congress had had something to say about arriving at such duties. Incidentally I also asked this gentleman about the reduction in the tariff on hides that I just referred to, and he was very frank about it. He said this: The only reason for reducing the tariff on hides was because the Argentines wanted it reduced.

But there is one better example than any of these that I can call to your attention, and that is the example of the Argentine sanitary convention. In 1935 the State Department negotiated a treaty with Argentina which is known as the Argentine sanitary convention, and which would have nullified the provisions of section 306 (a) of the tariff act with regard to the embargo against imports of live animals or dressed meats from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists. Fortunately that was handled as a treaty. But if the State Department had had the authority to handle that as a trade agreement, that shows where we would have been today. We would have had Argentine beef in this country and we would have had foot-and-mouth disease beyond the shadow of a doubt.

(Here the witness commented on foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks and outbreaks in England, which buys Argentina's meat.—ED.)

There has also been an assumption in discussing these trade matters that if an industry has to have tariff protection it is therefore automatically a weak industry. For the cattle industry I want to say we are not a weak industry. I don't know of any industry that has stood up throughout this depression and asked for less help from Uncle Sam than has the cattle industry. I am sure Congressman West will bear me out in that statement. In the drought of 1934, Uncle Sam did come to the rescue of the livestock industry and spent a lot of money to buy livestock and prevent their dying in the drought. We didn't ask for the range AAA program; it was given to us, but we didn't ask for it, and we accepted it rather reluctantly. But in 1934 Uncle Sam spent \$100,000,000 in buying cattle, and out of that he secured 800,000,000

pounds of canned beef, so that wasn't wasted.

Some reference was made the other day in the discussion about turkeys. You have had a lot of fun about turkeys. But Mr. Robertson said that the reason they didn't reduce the tariff on turkeys was because the cost of production in Argentina was so much below the cost in Virginia.

The cost of producing beef down there is similarly lower. We have the same thing exactly. The same thing is true with Mexico. You all know their costs of production are entirely different from ours. And the fact of the matter is that the cost of production in this country is largely beyond the control of the industry producer, whether he is a cattle producer or what it may be. The tax structure is built up; he has very little to do with it. And, more than that, today there is the cost of labor. We have an administration that has deliberately put up labor so that out on the ranches today we are paying from 50 to 100 per cent more for our ranch hands than we were a year or a little over a year ago. . . . I want to call your attention again to the situation we will face at the end of this war, with these greatly overexpanded industries. I want to show you that in 1919 Canada, with free trade on cattle, dumped into this country 450,000 cattle. During the war period we had been getting around 150,000 a year. But when the war was over they

dumped 450,000. Why? Because they had been holding back a supply for their own use. When the emergency was over they put them into this relatively high market. The same year, the year ending June 30, 1919, the imports of canned beef jumped from nothing to 127,000,000 pounds, and that is a lot of cattle put into cans. And we will have just exactly that same thing again when this war is over. We will have every country in the world that has any surpluses of any kind coming to this market because it is the best market on earth, and if you gentlemen don't begin to think now about how you are going to protect against that contingency, in my opinion we are going to repeat the experience we had following the last World War, when we had to have the Emergency Tariff Act of 1922.

If the act is extended, we would like to see Congress reserve to itself the power of ratifying whatever trade agreements are made. I can assure you that the country is very much heartened by the fact that Congress is beginning to take back some of the powers that it granted the Executive during the emergency, and we think here is another instance where you ought to restore those powers to yourselves.

We would like to see bilateral agreements rather than unilateral agreements. You will remember the instance I gave you of the reduction in tariff on Mexican cattle. Of course you can say that so long as they raised the export duty we weren't particularly hurt. But Canada got the benefit of that reduction in tariff, although she had nothing to do with the agreement with Mexico, and it is that policy that has to do with the whole world that I think the country generally dislikes. We would like to see a restriction in the law that would make it very definite that the Executive does not have the power to amend sanitary provisions of existing law. If we were to have an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, with this great number of livestock and with the transportation difficulties we have, it is very doubtful whether we could get it under control as we always have succeeded in controlling such outbreaks in the past.

If the act is extended we believe its time should be limited, whether it is to one year or two years, but not more than two years, so that, whatever party is in power after the election a year from next fall, it will have a voice in fixing the tariff rates.

I think at that time it is certain that we are going to have a re-examination of this whole tariff structure of this country, and it just seems reasonable that this law should not be extended beyond that time.

The CHAIRMAN. Are you through?

Mr. MOLLIN. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Are you a cattle grower yourself?

Mr. MOLLIN. Not now. I was for many years.

The CHAIRMAN. You are not now?

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



This Office of War Information "War Graphic" shows the evils of black markets. They convert meat to a group that is actually victimized through their higher prices and danger to health. In fact, they reportedly have actually hampered the government in buying meat for the armed forces.

Mr. MOLLIN. No, sir. I am secretary of the organization.

The CHAIRMAN. You are familiar with prices in 1929, 1930, 1931, and 1932?

Mr. MOLLIN. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. You are familiar with them now?

Mr. MOLLIN. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. How do they compare?

Mr. MOLLIN. The prices are very much better now.

The CHAIRMAN. We didn't have any reciprocal trade agreement then, did we?

Mr. MOLLIN. No.

The CHAIRMAN. You have now?

Mr. MOLLIN. Yes; but that doesn't prove—

The CHAIRMAN. Just answer my question.

Mr. MOLLIN. I will answer your question, if you give me a chance.

The CHAIRMAN. Answer my questions without giving me a debate. How much higher are cattle now than they were in those years under the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act?

Mr. MOLLIN. Of course, you know, Mr. Chairman, that the world depression followed immediately after the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act. In fact, it was in progress before the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act ever was passed.

The CHAIRMAN. When did it reach the lowest point?

Mr. MOLLIN. In 1932.

The CHAIRMAN. What act was in effect then?

Mr. MOLLIN. That is the act. I say the depression started in 1929.

The CHAIRMAN. I am not talking about the depression, I am talking about the tariff. I don't want to get into the depression. If we do we will be here until the end of time. I am talking about the tariff and trade agreements.

Mr. MOLLIN. Of course, you have to take other things into consideration.

The CHAIRMAN. I know. We will take it into consideration. When did cattle reach their lowest level since you have been familiar with the cattle business?

Mr. MOLLIN. Well, it was at the bottom of the depression.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes. What brought about the depression?

Mr. MOLLIN. The world condition following the First World War. It wasn't the Hawley-Smoot Tariff Act.

The CHAIRMAN. I thought the Hawley-Smoot Tariff Act and the high protective tariff were supposed to make the country independent. I thought that was what it was for, that it wasn't affected by world conditions so much. When times are good in this country they say it is our own economic condition, but when they are bad, they say it is the world situation.

Mr. MOLLIN. I think we will probably always hope that we are going to have a perfect situation, but we are always going to have ups and downs.

The CHAIRMAN. The prices of cattle are satisfactory now, aren't they?

Mr. MOLLIN. Very much so.

The CHAIRMAN. They are very high?

Mr. MOLLIN. And we don't expect them to stay at present levels. We don't think that is a level that can be maintained.

The CHAIRMAN. Unless everything else stays at the present level we could hardly desire them to stay.

Mr. MOLLIN. We wouldn't want them to. As a matter of fact, the administration is trying right now to bring the prices down on both cattle and hogs, more or less in line with present ceilings, and we are not opposing that effort. We want to see the meat program work and we are co-operating with the administration.

The CHAIRMAN. You spoke about the country being flooded with cattle after the war is over. Don't you have quotas? Even at the present rate there are quotas.

Mr. MOLLIN. Not now.

The CHAIRMAN. They are limited.

Mr. MOLLIN. Not now.

The CHAIRMAN. They would be. They have a right to terminate the agreements in a very short time when a country is liable to be flooded.

Mr. MOLLIN. Quotas have been stricken out by Executive order.

The CHAIRMAN. You won't let me ask my questions.

Mr. MOLLIN. Let me answer the question.

The CHAIRMAN. If it is extended, can't they terminate it on notice of so many months?

Mr. MOLLIN. Right now we haven't any quotas. The President terminated the quotas by Executive order.

The CHAIRMAN. I understand we have always had quotas.

Mr. MOLLIN. The quotas began in the Canadian trade agreement.

The CHAIRMAN. Let me ask you this: I am in the cattle business, so far as I am in business at all. I am always way

off and at a disadvantage, but suppose every man, or every industry, writes his own tariff laws. What kind of country would we have? Or suppose he writes his own tax laws, without regard to other occupations or other businesses?

Mr. MOLLIN. We are not asking any such thing.

The CHAIRMAN. We couldn't do that, could we?

Mr. MOLLIN. We are not asking that.

The CHAIRMAN. But you are very much opposed to any modification in the present tariff laws so far as the livestock industry is concerned, if I have understood you for the last 25 minutes.

Mr. MOLLIN. I will tell you, Mr. Chairman, I think we are in a very acute position in connection with this tremendous expansion.

The CHAIRMAN. You are out of business and I am in. You are alarmed and I am not. Of course, you are speaking for your association. That is proper.

Mr. MOLLIN. I can speak from the experience of what happened after the last war. The outfit I was with—

The CHAIRMAN. You said that was World War conditions, not the tariff.

Mr. MOLLIN. I am speaking about 1920 and 1921. Immediately following the war the outfit I was with in Nebraska lost almost half its invested capital in those two years. I don't want to see anything like that happen again.

The CHAIRMAN. How much loss was there in 1931, 1932, and 1933, and how many people lost their homes, lost everything they had?

Mr. MOLLIN. That's right—due to the world depression.

The CHAIRMAN. Don't say what it was due to; you just answer my question. I asked you, what is the greatest number since you have been a living man that lost what they had, and even lost their homes, or were sold out?

Mr. MOLLIN. That's right.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you ever know an era like it in your lifetime?

Mr. MOLLIN. No; and I hope we don't have another one.

The CHAIRMAN. You were speaking of foot-and-mouth disease, and you said you had heavy importations under the Smoot-Hawley act, before we had a reciprocal trade act. If we had heavy importations, raising the tariff wouldn't have anything to do with that.

Mr. MOLLIN. You must have misunderstood me. The heavy importations I referred to were of canned beef, and there is no danger of foot-and-mouth disease from canned beef.

The CHAIRMAN. I just didn't understand why you mentioned foot-and-mouth disease if you are not fearful—

Mr. MOLLIN. The reason I mentioned it is because if the State Department had the power today to write a trade agreement containing a clause that would cancel the embargo, it would have done so. It has already made such an agreement and it has been reposing

(Continued on Page 22)

EXTRALEGAL RATIONING

OPA officials at Portland, Ore., are confused over a scheme developed to beat the meat-rationing plan. An apparently legal method of getting around such rationing has been introduced in the Oregon metropolis and adopted by a large number of Portland consumers. A group of six or eight persons form a syndicate and buy a good beef animal on the hoof at the stockyards. One member of the pool slaughters it, divides the meat in proportion to the needs of the members, and the meat shortage is solved for all those participating. OPA regulations do not prevent other persons from slaughtering animals, so long as the meat is not delivered for sale, but they say it "just ain't right."

—National Provisioner.

OREGON CONVENTION

THE CATTLE AND HORSE RAISERS' Association of Oregon held its thirtieth annual convention at Burns, Ore., May 22-23, with an attendance of more than 300 range cattlemen from all parts of Oregon. Principal topics of discussion were the extreme difficulty of securing ranch labor; the shortage of much needed farm machinery; the effects of price ceilings and zones on the livestock industry; and the constant increase of big game on western ranges.

Included among the speakers were W. F. Olman, mayor of Burns; Herman Oliver, John Day; K. B. Platt, Burns; Harry Avery, Corvallis; M. N. Nash, Boise; Frank B. Wire, Portland; Harry Fuller, Burns; E. L. Potter, Corvallis; E. L. Peterson, new director of agriculture, Salem; E. N. Wentworth, Chicago; Harry Lindgren, Corvallis; and Frank S. Boice, of Arizona, president of the American National Live Stock Association.

President Boice advised the cattlemen to continue selling all surplus livestock and to be in position to stay in business after the war is over. It is the duty of cattlemen to provide the armed forces and workers with meat even if herds have to be temporarily reduced in numbers, he said. The attendance of Mr. and Mrs. Boice at the convention was warmly appreciated by the Oregon people.

President Robert Lister, in his annual address, stated that cattlemen had no objection to working long hours to maintain production, but he insisted that labor had no right to strike or to delay flow of needed supplies. He said that now is the time to get out of debt and stay that way.

Bitter criticism was leveled at the fumbling efforts of the government agencies in their attempts to regulate the economic life of the country. The OPA and WPB were especially mentioned for their lack of understanding and for their endless miles of red tape. Lack of machinery, delays in obtaining needed supplies, and drafting of key workers on ranches have all placed livestock industry in a situation where production will be decreased.

Prominent visitors to the convention were: J. H. Tippet, Asotin, Wash.; Dr. W. H. Lytle, Salem; Ervin Williams, Portland; Wm. Kittredge, Klamath Falls; Herman Oliver, John Day; Fred Phillips, Baker; Jo Bakoff; Guy Craig, Enterprise; H. L. Priday, Gateway; D. E. Richards, Union; Nathan B. Swift, Portland; Jack French, Long Creek; Albert Powers, Marshfield; S. R. Thompson, Pendleton; S. R. Bennett, Baker; Paul Brattain, Paisley; Wayne Houston, Brothers; Harry Stearns, Prineville; Orrin Mills, Paulina; Dick Otley, Princeton; Buck Snider, Paisley; and Wayne Stewart, Dayville.

The cattlemen opposed ceilings on live animal prices on the grounds that they would be impossible to administer. They asked that rationing be continued and believed that rationing plus government purchasing would prevent inflation.

Stockmen reported very heavy consumption of feed during the past winter, which was unusually severe. The opinion was that hay supplies in Oregon must be increased at least 500,000 tons this year if present numbers of livestock are to be maintained. In many areas of the range country, grass is slow to start and feed prospects are poor. Heavy loss from predatory animals has occurred. The customary number of cattle were not fed for beef last winter because of the feed shortage, and heavy runs of cattle will move to market as soon as they are fattened on grass.

Other resolutions adopted:

Asked that no livestock or livestock products be admitted from countries where hoof-and-mouth disease exists.

Requested Chester C. Davis to use every effort to provide sufficient new or used farm machinery to harvest necessary food crops.

Opposed all forms of agricultural subsidies and asked that price levels be held at point where production will be maintained.

Asked that all agricultural subsidies such as Triple A be abolished and a program of strict economy in government spending.

Requested OPA to adjust regulations so as to provide necessary supplies of preserved foods and gasoline to maintain livestock production.

Urged the state game commission to continue its game management plan and keep big game numbers at point where supplies of winter feed will maintain herds.

Stressed need of additional supplies of high protein feeds to carry livestock over severe winters and requested additional production of this type of feed.

Federal officials were asked to use every effort to obtain sufficient skilled labor to harvest necessary crops.

Asked that present relationship between railroad rates on dressed meat and live animals be continued.

Favored federal bounty on predatory animals.

Called attention to the fact that over 50 per cent of Oregon land is under federal ownership and asked that these properties pay reasonable proportion of state and country expenses.

Favored passage of Johnson bill by Congress.

Called attention to huge purchases of private land by government agencies and asked that as much of this land as possible be returned to private ownership after the war.

Requested state public utility commissioner to allow privately owned trucks to transport freight anywhere at any time.

Pledged association and its members to do everything within their power to produce more food for armed forces and civilian population.

Called attention to the fact that stockmen whose lands have been taken over by war agencies are unable to get back in business on account of high surtaxes and asked that Treasury Department investigate this situation and make needed adjustments.

All officers of the association were re-elected. It was decided to hold next year's convention at Prineville, Ore.

A cowboy breakfast was served by Harney County cattlemen for 500 visitors, and the session closed with a war-time banquet featuring chicken instead of the traditional roast beef.

Louisiana Meeting Notes

By P. T. Sartwelle

NOTES ON THE ANNUAL CONVENTION of the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association held at Baton Rouge, La., April 13 and 14, 1943:

The convention, called to order by President James M. McLemore, mustered members from more than 20 parish cattlemen's associations.

The address of welcome was made by retired Major-General Campbell B. Hodges, president of Louisiana State University, followed by a review of the activities of the association during the past year by Association President McLemore.

Secretary-Treasurer Frank Godchaux, Jr., of Abbeville, La., followed with a report which showed the association to be in good financial condition and enjoying a steady growth.

Governor Sam Houston Jones made a brief talk to the cattlemen, telling them of the great part the university was playing in the livestock industry of the state. He urged a better balanced program on the farm and told of the efforts of state officials to help locate an adequate supply of lime for building better pastures throughout the state.

National President Principal Speaker

Frank Boice, of Sonoita, Ariz., president of the American National Live Stock Association, on a return trip from Washington, D. C., was the main speaker. He had been in conference in Washington on matters pertaining to the general welfare of the cattle industry.

Mr. Boice talked on the present cattle situation, with particular reference to ceiling and rationing programs. He spoke about the work of the joint livestock committee in attempting to balance meat supply with demand. The armed forces come first, he said, civilian needs next, with rationing the right answer to insure a share for all, and the remainder is for lease-lend.

Livestock producers of the country are

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

all opposing ceilings on live animals and should continue to do so. Mr. Boice warned that we must have a better balanced farm program and thought that the cattle raiser should start at this time gradually to reduce the number of livestock on his farm or ranch, so that when the war ends he will avert an oversupply that would force price levels too low. He recommended that the cattlemen market the additional several million head of livestock requested by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Mr. Boice's address was impressively received by those attending the convention. This is the first time that the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association has been honored by the presence of a president of the American National Live Stock Association. Upon several occasions Louisiana cattlemen have been privileged to hear with much interest addresses by the executive secretary of the National, F. E. Mollin, and at the convention in 1942, Lawrence F. Mollin ably represented the National.

Officers for the Year

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President—James M. McLemore, Alexandria; vice-presidents—Jim Standley, Monroe; J. D. Cooper, Natchitoches; Oscar Evans, Baton Rouge; and Mark Richard, Cameron; secretary-treasurer—P. T. Sartwelle, Lake Charles.

Monroe, La., was selected as the convention city for 1944.

Resolutions were adopted as follows:

Increasing Meat Rationing.—Because government figures show record numbers of cattle and hogs and because cattle and hog numbers even after meat requirements of the armed forces, lend-lease, and unrationed civilians have been supplied are rising, we urge reconsideration of the meat rationing program to determine the advisability of increasing rations as soon as supply is available and urge that cattle numbers be "materially reduced" in order more adequately to supply meat demands during the crisis and for the conomic well-being of the cattle industry. Accepting the obligation of supplying consumers with meat, we pledge materially to increase the marketing of our cattle during the remainder of this emergency.

Increase in Cattle Marketing.—In view of the unprecedented expansion of foods competitive with beef and veal and the all-time high in cattle and hog numbers, we urge the American National Live Stock Association to use its influence to obtain increased marketings of cattle so that we may supply the nation in its crisis with the maximum of beef and in the end may not be confronted with an unwieldy surplus of cattle, overstocked ranges, and reduced consumer demand for meat. We pledge our co-operation in such a plan and our continued support to the American National. We authorize the association again to represent us in Washington.

Sanitary Embargo.—Because it is vital in war that the health of the nation's livestock be safeguarded, and since scientific opinion is that, if livestock or chilled or frozen meats are imported from countries having foot-and-mouth disease, outbreaks will occur, and such outbreak would cause chaos in the industry, we oppose any modification of the present sanitary embargo.

Reciprocal Trade.—We feel that this nation's agriculturists are entitled to its markets so long as they can supply them, and it is our right to have the benefit of representation in open discussion when treaties are being considered, therefore we favor the extension of the reciprocal trade law only if it is modified to require ratification of treaties made by the Senate.

Farm Security.—The Farm Security Administration and federal employment agencies have encouraged migration of farm labor from Louisiana to other sections of the country. Such practices should be discontinued.

Thanks were extended to the Louisiana State University and the East Baton Rouge Parish Cattlemen's Association for courtesies during the convention and Mr. Boice was extended the association's thanks for his appearance.

Washington Cowmen Meet

WESTERN CATTLE PRODUCERS will accept less money for their cattle this fall rather than be guilty of causing an upward spiral of prices ending in inflation," pledged Frank S. Boise, Sonoita, Arizona, president of the American National Live Stock Association, addressing the Washington Cattlemen's Association annual meeting. Packers are caught in an acute price squeeze and cattle fatteners, faced with rising feeder cattle prices, higher feed prices, and approaching feed shortage, are in a no less severe squeeze. If retail meat prices are to be held at current levels so organized labor cannot use rising costs of living as an excuse for demands for pay raises which would result in ruinous inflation, cattle producers must take less.

"The 40-hour week and the manpower problem are the same," Boice continued. "Absenteeism in essential industry is comparable to being A.W.O.L. in the army, and strikes no better than mutiny," he stated. "How can we have an army of 11,000,000 men, be the arsenal of the world, and supply the world with food as well?" he asked. "I believe the army has asked for more men than it can possibly use. The draft has hurt us very little, however, with only 15 per cent of the workers lost that way and through enlistments. High industrial wages have taken the rest."

"Greater beef production is needed in these war times," declared A. J. Hensel of Waterville, president of the association, in opening the annual meeting at

Asotin May 14. "The best way to make more beef available is to cull old, off-type cattle." More cattle should be sold than are being raised. Our ranges are fully stocked or overstocked. Those who sell at high prices now will be in a better position to weather readjustment which will come. "History has a way of repeating itself and lower prices have always followed high prices, hurting many cattlemen who have over-expanded," Hensel warned.

"Price ceilings on live animals would be impossible to enforce, and if attempted would tend to decrease production of meat and to extend black market operations. We are unalterably opposed to price ceilings on live animals" reads

(Continued on Page 23)

ASSOCIATION NOTES

PACIFIC COAST ANGUS BREEDERS ORGANIZE

The Pacific Coast Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association was organized at a meeting in Sacramento, Cal., on May 1, with Otto V. Battles, of Yakima, Wash., as its president, Ed Biaggini, Cayucos, Cal., vice-president, and Mrs. Kernick Smith, Selma, Cal., secretary-treasurer. The association will promote the Angus breed on the Pacific coast through the medium of consignment shows and sales, field days, and tours. The organization is to be comprised of breeders and cattlemen in seven western states—Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and Idaho.

IDAHO SECRETARY RESIGNS

Frank Winzeler, active secretary of the Idaho Cattlemen's Association, resigned the position he has held with that organization for the past six years to become associated with the Twin Falls Live Stock Company, Twin Falls, Idaho. During Mr. Winzeler's secretaryship with the Idaho organization, that group, it is reported, has added 1,000 new members and become considerably more active in representing the Idaho stockmen. The Idaho association, at its recent meeting, adopted a resolution expressing appreciation of the work Mr. Winzeler has performed for the association and Idaho stockmen. The resignation takes effect June 1. Successor to Mr. Winzeler is Leon Weeks, who has been connected with the Federal Land Bank farm loan associations in Idaho.

MONTANA MEETINGS

The Southeastern Montana Livestock Association held its sixth annual meeting in Hysham on April 24. A large number of stockmen turned out for the sessions. The setting-up of a \$500 reward was voted for anyone furnishing information leading to the arrest and conviction of parties who steal property belonging to an association member. Frank Petro, secretary, announced his

retirement from that position and asked that his salary for the past year be contributed to the new reward fund. A rising vote of thanks was given him. . . . The annual meeting of the Park County Livestock Association was held April 3 in Livingston, Mont. The association decided to offer a reward of \$250 for information (except that supplied by salaried peace officers) leading to the arrest and conviction of cattle thieves in Park County. Officers elected were: Wesley D'Ewart, president; Howard Bodine, secretary; and P. H. Gilbert, treasurer.

EX-PRESIDENT BROCK ADDRESSES ROTARIANS

J. Elmer Brock, past president of the American National Live Stock Association, appeared on a panel before a district convention of the Rotary Club at Colorado Springs in late April. Others on the panel included Don Bolt, newspaperman and radio commentator, of Rockford, Ill.; and Rev. Ezra Bauman, of Ft. Morgan, Colo. The discussion dealt with inter-American co-operation. Mr. Brock, who traveled extensively in South America in 1941, was in position to give his hearers first-hand information on trade matters concerning the countries to the south of us.

GREENLEE COUNTY MEETING

On May 1 the Greenlee County Cattle Growers' Association (Ariz.) held a meeting in Clifton. The speakers included Tom Heady, president of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association; Tom Rigden, extension animal husbandman; State Game Warden Kartchner; Supervisor Woods of the Crook National Forests; and Fred J. Fritz, state representative from Greenlee County. A "pot luck" supper and dance on an outdoor platform ended the meeting.

TARRYALL GROUP MEETS

Tarryall Livestock Association members meeting at Jefferson, Colo., April 24, heard Executive Secretary F. E. Mollin of the American National Live Stock Association talk briefly on the principal problems before the livestock industry. Informal discussion of current questions developed following the talk of Mr. Mollin. Officers of the association are: Fred Day, Pine, president; A. L. Archer, Jefferson, vice-president; and Glen J. Peterson, Como, secretary.

WANT MORE COTTON

The Lawton, Okla., Chamber of Commerce recently adopted a resolution requesting action to increase cotton acreage allotments. The resolution set forth as reasons "a tremendous shortage of cottonseed products" for feed for cattle; population increase, both in cattle generally and in milk cows; and unsatisfactory winter rations for the animals.

NORTH PARK MEETING

Resolutions passed by the North Park Stock Growers' Association, meeting at Walden, Colo., May 15, opposed price ceilings on livestock; deplored the action of the President in establishing the Jackson Hole National Monument; and urged the War Production Board to allot material to meet minimum ranch and farm equipment needs. Officers elected at the meeting were Ordway G. Mellen, president; Harry Wattenberg, vice-president, and F. G. Carlstrom, secretary-treasurer.

CATTLE THIEVES ACTIVE

The Washington County Stock Growers' Association, Akron, Colo., which has been inactive for three or four years, is again organizing, principally to combat cattle stealing. Two men have recently been sentenced to the state penitentiary for stealing a total of 19 head of cattle in Washington and Yuma counties, but reports of stolen cattle have been received since these men were caught.

NEW TEXAS HEREFORD SECRETARY

Thomas J. Patterson has accepted the position of secretary of the Texas Hereford Association, succeeding Edwin R. Johnson, who recently resigned that position. Mr. Patterson comes from Shelburne, Vt., where for the past several years he has managed a registered Hereford farm.

GREEN WOOD COUNTY OFFICERS

Officers of the Green Wood County Cattlemen's Association (Kansas) elected at a meeting in March were Fred Winzeler, Lamont, president; H. M. Marriott, vice-president; and Herbert Rockwell, secretary-treasurer.

FURTHER FEEDING FOUND PROFITABLE

YEARLING AND TWO-YEAR-OLD steers can be carried to yield high good or low choice beef without producing excessive amounts of fat. "In other words," says Frank L. Love, of Wilson & Co., "the marketing of steers at a medium or low good finish represents a loss in the tonnage of usable meat which still could be added consistent with good feeding practice if the cattle were carried to a high good or low choice finish."

This is shown in tests conducted by Wilson & Co. in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture, the National Live Stock and Meat Board, and the University of Illinois. Summary and conclusion of the tests are quoted:

"Four lots of 25 carcasses, grading respectively AA+, A+, A-, and B+, from steers placed on feed as 700- to 750-pound yearlings, were included in Group I of this test; three lots of 25

carcasses grading AA-, A+, and B from steers that went into the feed-lot as 900- to 950-pound two-year-olds were included in Group II. An analysis was made of 15 right sides in each lot. They were first broken into wholesale (primal) cuts according to OPA specifications and the total weight of cuts from each lot of 15 sides determined. Wholesale cuts then were boned according to Army specifications for fresh frozen boneless beef and the yield of usable meat determined for each lot. "Usable meat" is defined as boneless cuts and usable (lean) trimmings acceptable for both Army and civilian requirements. There was no significant difference in percentage yield of usable meat from the B+, A-, and A+ sides in Group I and from the B, A+, and AA- sides in Group II. Thus, from the standpoint of tonnage of usable meat, there was considerable advantage in adding the necessary weight and finish to bring the steers up to the A+ or AA- grade.

"In Group I, a final separation of lean, fat, and bone was made to determine comparative physical composition of sides in each grade. The lean and fat varied from 52.5 per cent and 29.7 per cent, respectively, in the AA+ sides to 60.7 per cent lean and 17.7 per cent fat in the B+ sides. It was further indicated that 52 per cent of the additional weight of the A- over B+ sides was lean and 34 per cent was fat; that 48 per cent of the additional weight of A+ over A- sides was lean and 42 per cent fat, and that the proportion of lean and fat in the additional weight of AA+ over A+ sides was 27 per cent and 64 per cent, respectively.

"From the results of this study, it is concluded that comparable grades and weights of yearling and two-year-old steers should be fed until they will produce at least high good or low choice carcasses in order to obtain the maximum production of usable meat without producing an excessive amount of fat."

CALENDAR

JUNE—

- 1-3—Wyoming Stock Growers' Ass'n convention, Lusk.
- 2—North Central Aberdeen-Angus show and sale, Valley City, N. D.
- 7-8—South Dakota Stock Growers' Ass'n convention, Rapid City.
- 7-8—Intermountain Junior Fat Stock Show, North Salt Lake, Utah.
- 5—Second Annual Purebred Sale, Bismarck, N. D.
- 9—Sandhills Feeder Cattle Producers' meeting, Gordon, Neb.
- 10-11—Nebraska Stock Growers' Ass'n convention, Gordon.
- 11-12—North Dakota Stockmen's Ass'n convention, Williston.

JULY—

- 15-17—Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Ass'n convention, Gunnison.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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Subsidies

DESPITE REPEATED REBUFFS BY Congress, which has refused to appropriate monies for the payment of subsidies, the administration persists in its efforts in this direction and has recently come forward with plans which show a desire greatly to extend the practice. So far denied direct appropriations, officials have resorted to the use of funds already available to the Commodity Credit Corporation. However, the life of this corporation will soon expire unless extended, and leading officials of the War Food Administration have recently been before committees of Congress urging not only the extension of the life of the corporation but huge increases in funds, part of which would be used for the payment of subsidies. In addition, OPA has just announced that on June 1 retail prices on meat, butter, coffee, and certain other commodities will be rolled back, the cost of that to be paid to the processor by the RFC, which temporarily at least has sufficient funds to avoid the necessity of going to Congress for further direct appropriations for this purpose.

The power to grant such subsidies is supposed to be contained in the Second War Powers Act, and it is in connection with the need to increase production that subsidies are suggested therein. Consequently, while this proposed roll back is clearly a consumer subsidy, it will be advertised as a producer subsidy in order to comply with the law. Cattle producers are in grave doubt as to whether the roll back may not come back to them. OPA has indicated that before a processor can secure the subsidy from RFC he must sign an affidavit to the effect

that he has rolled back prices to the extent indicated and has complied with all the other multitudinous rules and regulations involving the particular product in question. In the case of meat packers, they may deem it unsafe to sign such a statement, as no one can be sure that he is complying with all the rules and regulations, however good his intentions. In that case the packer could play safe by rolling the cost back to the producer instead of billing it to the RFC.

It remains to be seen to what extent Congress can put a damper on this whole subsidy plan. Advertised as a step to prevent inflation, actually it is considered by many to be itself inflationary. With constant statements by administration leaders to the effect that taxes must be increased or forced savings initiated to control the excess spending capacity of the public, to subsidize the same public by making the goods they buy less expensive will merely increase the inflationary surplus spending power.

Agriculture generally does not like the subsidy idea. It believes that purchasers should be allowed to pay a fair price for the things they buy without subsidy either to the consumer or the producer. The time may well come when the administration will wish that it had given more concern to keeping up production and less concern to holding down prices to the consumers. Many competent observers believe that we are at that point right now, and that the subsidy program will hamper rather than increase the much-needed production.

Meat Supplies

THERE IS A LOT OF CONFUSION

among the consumers of this country relative to the current meat situation, and there are ample grounds for such confusion. In the first place, the Department of Agriculture has publicized the fact that there should be available for civilian consumption this year 124 pounds of meat per capita. It does not take a very expert mathematician to figure out that, on the basis of the present ration coupons, calling for two pounds per week, including butter and fats, the consumer is only getting something less than 80 pounds per capita, because the OPA has stated officially that a survey indicated housewives were spending slightly more than 25 per cent of their coupons for butter and fats. What is becoming of the remainder? It should be piling up but it is not, and we are told that the Army is having difficulty getting supplies it needs, particularly of beef.

The PRODUCER has felt from the beginning that too tight rationing would encourage rather than discourage black-market operations, and the results to date clearly indicate this to be the case. Furthermore OPA refused, in its strict application of packer quotas, to give any recognition to shifts in population due to

the building of large war plants in congested areas. As a consequence, in such areas consumers were almost forced to buy in the black market or go without meat. Once the practice is started, it is difficult to stop it, and, despite all the threats of prosecutions, the fact that the meat is disappearing is the best evidence in the world that things are not yet under control.

It is particularly unfortunate that this situation prevails just at the time that administration officials finally decided to accept and put into operation the meat-management program worked out by the industry at the conference in Chicago early in April. To what extent this program can aid in bringing the meat situation under control, with particular reference to black-market operations, is not entirely clear. Most of us believe that the program is sound and will work if given anything like a fair chance; but, if the black-market operations continue, then the meat-management program will be blamed for something which was already in existence and indeed well established when the program was adopted.

There has been a further disturbing influence—one that should not be necessary under the circumstances. Propagandists for Argentine interests continue to say that there is an ample supply of cheap beef piling up in South America and held from our meat-hungry consumers only by the sanitary embargo of the tariff act. There is not a word of truth in these statements which are distributed over the air, by newspaper columnists, magazine writers, and in speeches in Congress and elsewhere. It would be interesting to know the full extent of this propaganda to deceive the American meat consumer. The facts of the matter are that South American surplus meat is being bought entirely by the British, under the direction of the Allied Food Council, and that once purchased through contract negotiations it is then subject to allocation by the Allied Food Council. Instead of reserves piling up, as claimed, actually the very severe drought which has visited the principal cattle-producing areas of South America during the past few months has caused serious concern as to whether or not meat supplies from that source will be sufficient for our Allies abroad. It is a cruel injustice to the American people to be thus deceived, and apparently the only purpose is to keep the issue alive, with the hope of securing entry to our markets when the war is over and shipments abroad diminish.

One of the first thing that the war meat board, soon to be established under the meat-management plan, can and should do is to inform the American consumer as to the truth of the whole meat situation here and abroad. That would effectively stop the spreading of rumors which are dishonest in their source and cannot help but be harmful to the united war effort.

Big Game

THE REITERATED DEMANDS FOR relief that some of the state livestock associations have to make on the big game question have ceased to be just another order of association business. They have long shown the need for a unified system of control of the big game herds. The question recently came up again in the Washington Cattle-men's Association meeting. A Forest Service man there said that the Forest Service could do something about it on its land but it wanted to avoid this because it involves the question of state rights which also involves charges of politics and because game administration is such a big headache. Similarly, state game commissions have by no means all acted vigorously in the matter. So the Washington association passed another resolution demanding seriously that something be done. Oregon in a meeting a week later did the same. In other parts of the West the problem sticks out. Reports tell of big game trouble in the Jackson Hole area, where elk herds have increased in 20 years from 8,000 to 20,000 head. In the Gunnison, Colo., district recently 2,400 out of a herd of 6,200 deer died on the feeding ground of indigestion and parasites.

This is a matter in which the public, the government, the sportsman, the conservationist, and the stockman are vitally interested. But in the case of the stockman all these interests are in the one individual who has the added interest of being financially dependent on solution of the problem. It is range that he uses for production of needed meat that is being consumed by the enlarged game herds, and it is usually his hay that goes to winter-feed starving animals. That something must be done may not be questioned by any of these interests. But it must be done now. The stockmen's resolutions must be taken seriously, for their tone now shows the

matter to be critical. That summer is here and grass is growing well and elk and deer are getting their fill, while giving a sense of relief of winter hardships for the animals, must not be allowed to be the reason for further postponing solution of the problem.

Some orderly procedure must be adopted by some agency that has the means to cure the trouble. If that is the state game department, then it should map its action now. Those interested must find a way to co-operate with stockmen on this problem, which is now more vital than ever. In the interest of the game itself, in the interest of more certain conservation, and in the interests of the sportsman, the public, and government, the situation cries out for the relief the stockmen are asking—reduction in big game numbers in critical areas to the point where the game may live as nature intended on its allotted range.

Ceilings

THE OBJECTION OF THE LIVESTOCK industry to the fixing of ceilings on live animals rests not on an immediate concern over prices, as some may think, but on something more. If prices were the only thing involved, the producer undoubtedly would be happy to have his steers pegged at almost any of the figures that have been seen the past year or so. The market has been good.

But the matter of ceilings on livestock raises a number of problems that must be faced—problems that industry representatives have been pointing out to government officials. They concern the intricacies of livestock marketing, effect on production, the question of enforcement, and other things. Let us consider some of the problems in marketing:

First, there are many livestock market areas and many markets, large and small, public and private. In the public market there are many markets within the market. While sale prices at a given point may influence prices at another, they are not uniform. If prices are to be set, what prices will be set?

Second, there are many weight groups in the various classes of animals that go to market, each weight group yielding a different amount of carcass meat; there are variations in yields from animals of the same weight group, both as to meat and by-product. And this applies as well to feeders and stockers. Where could one find the price-list to follow for the niceties of grade, finish, condition, fill, etc., that are now rewarded with an added nickel or dime? Who is going to say what an animal is worth, and will he be able to figure it out before the animal, there on shrink, has lost a number of precious pounds?

Third, the receipts of livestock are different on different days of the week.

Monday may be a good day, but any one of the other five days may be, too. If competitive prices are done away with, allocation of receipts must follow. If 5,000 animals come to a market that needs 10,000, who is to get the 5,000? Who would dole them out?

These are but some of the issues that the government and the industry will have to cope with if ceilings on live animals go into effect. It is easy to understand why stockmen want to escape them. It is hoped that the government will want to, too.

Meatless Days

WHEN MEAT RATIONING BECAME effective several months ago, meatless days as a way of coping with short meat supplies faded away. There was indeed no need for them. But recently some of the restaurants and hotels, now operating under restricted purchases of meat, have adopted the idea of meatless days. So the old problem comes back. The livestock industry is vitally concerned over this new threat to part of its market for meat, for the restaurant and hotel are large users of that food. The industry wants to avoid a hangover such as meatless days caused following the last war.

No one will deny that the public wants meat included in its meals. While speaking from his own point of view, the stockman therefore suggests that the wise thing for the restaurants to do is to use the solution to his problem that the government has used for the public at large. Restaurants and hotels are in position to ration their meat to their customers, spreading the supply over all the days of the week. This surely would be more agreeable to the patron than the announcement "no meat today." The restaurateur has other avenues open to him in the use of meat extenders and in the offering of a greater number of so-called fancy meat dishes which he should find entirely profitable.

The livestock industry does not want even a part of the public to get the "meatless day" habit.

W. B. MITCHELL PASSES AWAY

W. B. Mitchell, Marfa, Texas, Hereford breeder, passed away at Marfa on May 15. Mr. Mitchell was one of the founders of the Highland Hereford Association of Marfa, and head of the annual Highland Hereford sales in which feeder cattle were sold in carlots to feeders the country over. He had a wide acquaintance among cattle feeders. He was a past president of the American Hereford Association. He was also interested in the breeding of Palamino horses and was one of the founders of the Palamino registry. Surviving him are four sons, Joe, Hayes, McKie, and Burton, all well known in the cattle business.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



"You won't miss your train, Boss. Mr. Whipple set the clock a whole hour ahead!"

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON NOTES

Ceilings. Yes, this still rates top mention in any writings about how the OPA and the meat problem are getting along. It is true that high officials and others have unqualifiedly said they would "go along" on the plan that the livestock and meat industries worked out a month or so ago. But, on the other hand, Washington continues to complicate matters, this time, we would say, by a subsidy plan. The problem is not settled.

Briefly, under this plan retail meat prices will be reduced 10 per cent to offset labor complaint that wages are not keeping pace with increases in food costs. Raw material prices will be left as is and packers will bill the government for losses in the proposed squeeze. It is evidently patterned after a plan that has been operating in Canada and England. It seems not too satisfactory to the stockman, who is concerned lest prices may be rolled back all the way from the consumer to him.

So the situation becomes no clearer and the industry plan gets off at none too good a start, although there have been evidences that meat rationing was beginning to work and that things would right themselves. But here, again, it seems now that trouble may be in store; for, despite the modest meat allowance (it is, as estimated by OPA, about 75 per cent of the approximately two pounds a week, 25 per cent going for fats) and despite the hard and fast packer quotas, meat is not piling up as one would expect. It is even reported that buyers for the armed services run into shortages. Trying to figure it out, some feel that the black markets are responsible and that this in turn may have come about through too drastic restrictions.

But the OPA also went along on the suggestion in the producer-marketer-packer plan to form a nine-man war meat board to operate in Chicago, with which producer and other groups will confer from time to time. A meeting coming up even as this is written is to consider the whole question of beef production. It is good that Washington confer with industry.

Treaties

Representatives of the livestock industry have put in appearances at hearings in Washington in opposition to a straight-out renewal of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act. They were alluded to as isolationists by some of the proponents of the "agreements" program. But what they were testifying to was that representation should still count for something. They wanted ratification of agreements by Congress, not exclusion of world trade; they would leave to Con-

gress the question of how much foreign competition they must accept. They want to keep relying upon legislative action. That is the constitutional way. It is not isolationism.

The House passed a resolution calling for extension of the act with the change in the law that limits present authority to two years instead of three; the Senate Finance Committee went a bit further to call for congressional authority to revoke pacts six months after the end of the war. These actions, although not in too clear-cut a way, do mean that Congress retains a reservation as to the wisdom of leaving the treaty-making power entirely to the Executive.

Readers will find the testimony of Executive Secretary F. E. Mollin of the American National Live Stock Association on the subject set forth on page 12 of the current PRODUCER. Others who testified before the Senate committee included F. E. Marshall, secretary of the National Wool Growers' Association, who supported the policy that Congress should review trade agreements before they become effective; Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney, of Wyoming, who said that in only four of the 26 countries with which the United States has made agreements does the legislative branch have nothing to say about approval of the pacts; and Matthew Woll, of the tariff department of the American Federation of Labor, who believed that the legitimate interests of workers would be better protected if the trade treaties were submitted to the Senate for ratification. Plenty of argument of course went the other way, but some reservation, livestock observers believe, will go with the extension of the act.

Feed

Range cattlemen, whose operations require the use of high protein feed, have been concerned since February over the government-feed-industry agreement to seek conservation of protein through mixing, fearful that the concentrates that he uses as supplement or emergency ration would be available only in the form of mixed feed. But a restatement of the situation by the Department of Agriculture allays such fears. "The ranchman should use whatever feeds are best suited to his conditions." This suits the rangeman. Unless he is also a feeder, his purpose is to feed high-cost protein as sparingly as possible. But straight concentrates should continue to be made available to him in his fair share, as his production plant is equipped for use of such protein.

As for the feed grain situation, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimates that there will be from 10 to 12 per cent more grain-consuming animals this year than last. Production of feed

grains is put at 11 per cent less than a year ago under average yields.

Jackson Hole

Complete investigation of the creation by Executive order of the Jackson Hole National Monument is called for in a resolution introduced by Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney, of Wyoming, and approved by the Senate committee. The Public Lands Committee also adopted a motion by Senator McCarran, of Nevada, calling for introduction of a bill to repeal the authority by which national monuments are created without concurrence of Congress. This means, says Senator O'Mahoney, that vigorous steps will be taken to "undo the wrong which has been done the people of Wyoming by setting aside, without regard for their wishes, 221,000 acres of land." . . . In Wyoming a suit was filed in the United States District Court to prevent the government from taking over the Jackson Hole region for a national park.

Manpower

A current criticism is that while farmers have been shooting at the highest production goals in history the National Youth Administration has been shifting to war industries young men from farms and rural communities where labor is still urgent and lack of it likely to mean production loss. . . . The Byrd committee has suggested disbanding of the NYA. . . . A sample of wages for sheep herders and tenders is, as approved by the Department of Agriculture, as follows: for eastern Colorado plains, \$65 a month; for the central mountain portion, the San Luis Valley, and the San Juan Basin, \$85 a month; for northwestern Colorado, \$100 a month, all in addition to board and bunk.

Ranch Supplies

Food now holds rank equal to that of munitions in war plants. Such was the announcement of food administration officials when they explained that new orders affecting farm machinery would up its manufacture 80 per cent for the coming half-year compared with 1941 output. This increase would be more than three times the rate of farm machinery manufacture so far this year. Steps designed to make easier the access of farm supplies have been taken. These include loosening up of regulations on fence, including barbed wire, and many other supplies needed in ranch work.

Charles V. Whalin Retires

Charles V. Whalin, a pioneer in meat grading and standardization work, chief marketing specialist in the Food Administration, and author of numerous bulletins on livestock and meat subjects, retired from the Department of Agriculture on May 31. He has served the department continuously since 1907. During World War I he helped the department to establish standards for grading fresh beef for the Army, Navy, and Allies.

TREATY RATIFICATION

(Continued from Page 15)

in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee ever since May, 1935. It has been over there for eight years without ratification.

The CHAIRMAN. Don't you think our public health laws would protect that?

Mr. MOLLIN. This Argentine sanitary convention was written for the purpose of evading the law that we now have.

The CHAIRMAN. Now come back to the question. Does that have anything to do with reciprocal trade?

Mr. MOLLIN. I took that as an example of why we don't want those economists and professors down there in the State Department to do these things that could ruin the industry.

The CHAIRMAN. Whom do you want?

Mr. MOLLIN. I want somebody that has some practical experience.

The CHAIRMAN. I will be glad to have your advice. I am sure you have that.

Mr. MOLLIN. I am afraid that is a little sarcasm.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes. Now about this foot-and-mouth disease. Let's go a little further.

I have a son who buys and sells and breeds registered Hereford cattle, and he buys cattle in Colorado and he buys some from Texas and Kansas City, Mo., and he frequently gets cattle with foot disease. They develop foot disease before they get off the train.

Mr. MOLLIN. I don't know what you are talking about. It isn't foot-and-mouth disease. If it was, the BAI would be down on you in a hurry. I don't know what disease you are talking about. It is probably shipping fever, Mr. Chairman. That is a disease that cattle get frequently when they are shipped, particularly young cattle, but it is not foot-and-mouth disease. The last outbreak of that in this country was in 1929.

The CHAIRMAN. That is a long way back, isn't it?

Mr. MOLLIN. Yes, sir; that is the last one.

The CHAIRMAN. That was before reciprocal trade agreements, wasn't it?

Mr. MOLLIN. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. That was one of the troubles you had before you had reciprocal trade agreements?

Mr. MOLLIN. That is right.

The CHAIRMAN. You haven't had any since?

Mr. MOLLIN. I think you misunderstood the purpose of my mentioning the fact.

The CHAIRMAN. I am trying to get you straightened out.

Mr. MOLLIN. I don't need any straightening out. I understand the situation. We would have had it if we had taken the agreement the way they wanted to write it. I have a copy of it right here.

The CHAIRMAN. But we have not been having trouble, you say, since 1929.

Mr. MOLLIN. Who?

The CHAIRMAN. You.

Mr. MOLLIN. That's right.

The CHAIRMAN. Then why be alarmed about conditions?

Mr. MOLLIN. Because here is the Argentine sanitary convention.

The CHAIRMAN. You had the trouble before you had the reciprocal trade agreements, and you don't have it now.

Mr. MOLLIN. The record will show the point I am making.

The CHAIRMAN. I am not speaking about the record, I am asking you. If we did have it before we had reciprocal trade agreements, and you don't have it now since you have the reciprocal trade agreements—

Mr. MOLLIN. I will restate my position, if that is what you want.

The CHAIRMAN. I am asking you.

Mr. MOLLIN. I am trying to tell you, if you will let me state it. We don't want the authorities that write the reciprocal trade agreements to have the power to write into those agreements a provision that will nullify the sanitary embargo, and that is what they tried to do in this Argentine sanitary convention.

The CHAIRMAN. You are talking about foot-and-mouth disease now?

Mr. MOLLIN. That's right.

The CHAIRMAN. You say you haven't had any since 1929.

Mr. MOLLIN. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Why are you alarmed?

Mr. MOLLIN. I will let the record stand.

The CHAIRMAN. You won't answer my question.

Mr. MOLLIN. I have answered your question.

The CHAIRMAN. I don't think you have at all. I asked if you are alarmed about what they might do on the basis of anything they have done about foot-and-mouth disease. That is a fair question, I know.

Mr. MOLLIN. I used the reference to foot and mouth as a parallel, Mr. Chairman, to the power of those people in the trade agreements division to write into agreements things that would be very detrimental to the livestock industry. Now, they tried to do that in this Argentine sanitary convention.

The CHAIRMAN. They didn't do it.

Mr. MOLLIN. That is not saying they are not going to do it. It is just a question of their not knowing enough about the business to protect American industry. That is what I am talking about.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, if they have protected you so far, isn't that some evidence that they may do it in the future?

Mr. MOLLIN. We have protected it by keeping this thing from being ratified. So far as they are concerned in the State Department, they put out propaganda in 1935 and in 1937 trying to get this document ratified.

The CHAIRMAN. That hasn't been ratified. We are under one that has been ratified, and you haven't suffered.

Mr. MOLLIN. No; because they could

not get the job done that they wanted to get done.

The CHAIRMAN. And you haven't been hurt. I think we have plenty of opportunity to criticize bureaus and administrators in different departments for things they have done without criticizing them for things we think they might do.

Mr. MOLLIN. They tried to do this, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. They didn't do it.

Mr. MOLLIN. They didn't get the job done.

The CHAIRMAN. It looks more like a scarecrow to me than anything else.

Are there any further questions?

(There were a number of further questions put to Mr. Mollin by various members of the committee. They dealt largely with the disease question and comparative cost of production in this and competing countries.—Ed.)

Idaho Meeting Notes

AMERICAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION President Frank S. Boice, told Idaho Cattlemen's Association Members meeting in Boise, Ida., May 7-8 that "If Lewis' miners, now working but 35 hours a week, would work at straight pay 48 hours, they would have enough money to pay their bills and the nation would gain substantially in manpower." Mr. Boice spoke also on national problems of the industry. He said that western cattlemen must agree to take a lower price for their cattle without complaint as the only way in which to restore normal operating conditions under present price ceilings.

* * *

A strongly worded resolution opposed the recent executive order creating the Jackson Hole National Monument. It asked immediate setting aside of the proclamation and passage of pending legislation to repeal present presidential authority to establish national monuments.

* * *

A call for sacrifice came in Mr. Boice's talk, when he said that every segment of American life must sacrifice before this nation can win the war. He said he had found cattlemen willing to accept reduced prices "despite the fact that organized labor continues to ask for higher wages and organized agriculture continues to ask for higher prices for its products."

* * *

Frank Winzeler, Boise, Idaho, for six years secretary of the Idaho Cattlemen's Association, turned in his resignation the day before the convention to become associated with the Twin Falls Live Stock Auction Company. A resolution directed to Mr. Winzeler expressed "appreciation and gratitude for the fine work and excellent contribution that Mr. Winzeler has made to the welfare and

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

advancement of the association and the cattle industry of Idaho." Mr. Winzeler's successor is Leon Weeks, secretary of the national farm loan association at Gooding, Idaho. The new secretary is a graduate of the University of Idaho and previously was engaged in the livestock business.

President Roland J. Hawes asked for consideration of a proposal to accept voluntary price reductions, so that present ceilings and present plans in the meat situation may work out. Ceilings on live animals, he said, would turn the entire industry upside down.

John T. Caine III, of the Union Stock Yards at Chicago and well known to Idaho stockmen, told the group that stockmen were looking toward two freedoms: "Freedom from drought and freedom from doubt." He referred to Washington in the latter case. He advised stockmen to get their financial houses in order for the rainy days that will undoubtedly come.

Speakers at the meeting, which drew more than 225 Idaho cattlemen to Boise, included Mayor A. A. Walker of Boise; Vice-President Joe H. Nettleton, Murphy; President Roland J. Hawes, Boise; Secretary Frank Winzeler, Boise; Frank S. Boice, Sonoita, Ariz., national association president; Governor C. A. Bottolfson; N. K. Carnes, South St. Paul, Minn.; John T. Caine III, Chicago; Lt.-Col. Norman B. Adkinson, Boise, executive officer of state Selective Service; Howard Matthews, of Swift and Company, Chicago; Lt. Cecil Gregg of the Air Corps, Boise; and George N. Tucker, Boise.

WASHINGTON MEETING

(Continued from Page 17)

one resolution, in part. Complete abolition of marketing quotas, since "an adequate supply of meat for lease-lend and military purposes is insured by civilian rationing" is urged by another resolution.

Accumulation of idle money was held inflationary and purchase of "all the war stamps and bonds possible" and the direction of his "utmost energy toward assisting in terminating this world conflict at the earliest possible date" was pledged by the association for each of its members. Other resolutions commended Soil Conservation Service's assistance in producing feed; urged removal of all restrictions on livestock feed production; asked for allocation of necessary raw material for producing minimum necessary production supplies and equipment; and urged measures to permit land holders dispossessed of property for war department use to relocate without unfair "imposition of income tax." "Continued sanitary control as a measure to maintain peak production" was commended.



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FARM PRESS SCRAP COMMITTEE

Room 1310, 50 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, N. Y.

The issue before the cattlemen drawing most fire was big game management. Cattlemen described the damage done to privately owned range as well as to crops and feed supplies by excessive game numbers in some localities. "We can't produce the maximum meat, wool, and hides if game isn't controlled," explained Alan Rogers, Ellensburg. "There is no use to control our own stock to improve range if game isn't controlled."

"The Forest Service has the authority to protect lands under its administration from abusive use by game," stated L. H. Douglas, assistant regional forester. He recommends special hunts to reduce game numbers to determine carrying capacity of range. Longer hunting seasons and taking of females were urged. "Game numbers are never controlled by taking females alone," he said.

"We have asked the game commission for relief," explained Wallace Halsey, Asotin. "Unless we are definitely relieved this summer by the sportsmen, we will take such necessary action as required to get relief." A resolution of the association states the damage is basically due to uncontrolled numbers of elk and deer and describes the situation as critical in some areas. They asked the state game department to take a systematic harvest of the determined surplus game, avoid artificial winter feeding, not establish game reserves in close proximity to agricultural areas, and, in addition, reimburse farmers and ranchers for damage done by big game to growing crops, harvested crops, pastures, fences, and to other improvements.

Added protection against theft was announced by Dr. M. O. Barnes by two developments. "More brands are being recorded per month than at any time since this record was available," he stated. "Recorded brands are the only means we have of helping protect stock." Better protection is assured by newly established official brand inspection at 50 slaughter plants in the state and by the agreement of the state highway patrol to check truck shipments for clearance papers.

All officers were re-elected for 1943. They are: A. J. Hansel, Waterville, president; R. L. Picken, Tonasket; I. J. Dunn, Chesaw; Jack Crawford, Yakima, and Ross Woodward, Loomis, vice-presidents; Walter Tolman, Pullman, secretary-treasurer, with P. R. Gladhart, Spokane; Carl Grief, Uniontown; Ray Lamp, Harrington; C. W. Haun, Colville; and Jidge Tippet, Asotin, newly elected directors for a three-year term. Next year's meeting will be in Asotin.

Nearly 300 cattlemen were in attendance at the meeting, with representatives of local associations from every section of the state where beef cattle production is important. An increase in membership of 100 was announced by Walter Tolman, who is extension animal husbandman at Pullman, as well as secretary of the group.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

TRAFFIC

TRAFFIC NOTES

By CALVIN E. BLAINE
and CHAS. E. BLAINE

EFFECTIVE MAY 15 THE IN-creases of 6 per cent for the transportation of property generally and 3 per cent for the rail transportation of raw agricultural commodities, livestock, and the products thereof, which became effective on March 18, 1942, on interstate traffic will be suspended until January 1, 1944. Like reductions in the rail rates and charges will be made effective May 15 on intrastate traffic.

The reductions in the interstate rates were ordered by the Interstate Commerce Commission, after hearing held in February, in its report and order of April 6, 1943. The rail lines voluntarily filed petitions with the various state commissions for authority to establish and maintain like reductions on intrastate traffic from May 15 to December 31, 1943. Generally, the railroads' petitions were granted by the various state commissions without hearings, as the state authorities participated in the hearing before the ICC and were furnished copies of the record therein by the railroads.

Following the original report and order of the ICC dated March 2, 1942, which authorized the increases in the interstate rates and charges of the rail lines and like reports by the state regulatory bodies, the motor carriers generally established the same increases on both in-

terstate and state traffic as those established by the rail lines.

Subsequent to the ICC's further order of April 6, 1943, requiring the suspension of the increases, as above stated, the American Trucking Associations, Inc., Middle Atlantic States Common Carriers Conference, Inc., and Detroit and Cleveland Navigation Company filed petitions with the ICC to have excepted from the operation of the commission's findings and order dated April 6, 1943, all less-than-carload or any-quantity rates, or rates on merchandise traffic. However, said petitions were denied by the commission. Like petitions of truck operators were filed with some of the state commissions, but they, too, generally, were denied.

Possibly the reductions required by the ICC and the various state commissions in the rail rates and charges will result in reductions in the truck rates and charges. However, we have not received tariffs or other information of the truck lines to date (May 13) indicating what action, if any, they will take. However, as a large volume of the truck rates have been and are the same as the rail rates, unless the truck lines also suspend the increases in their rates, the rail rates will be lower than the truck rates and, consequently, a substantial portion of the traffic will be diverted from the trucks to the rail line.

Transportation Tax

The 3 per cent transportation tax which became effective generally December 2, 1942, applies only to transportation. It does not apply on feed fur-

nished livestock under the federal 28-36 hour law. However, many railroad agencies have erroneously misinterpreted the law and assessed and collected the transportation tax on feed furnished livestock, thus overcharging the shippers. We suggest that our principals review their freight bills and, in case they have been assessed and paid tax on feed furnished livestock comprising their shipments, that they submit the original paid freight bills to the carriers to secure refund, or mail them to this office and we will secure the refunds for them.

Help Transport Agencies

The carriers generally are handling the largest volume of traffic in their history. To assist them in avoiding car shortage, we again recommend that our principals help the carriers (1) by placing orders for equipment sufficient time in advance of the date required to enable the carriers to supply their needs in an orderly manner; (2) by not ordering more equipment than actually needed; (3) by loading equipment as heavily as possible in view of the character of the traffic involved; (4) by loading and unloading all equipment promptly; (5) by notifying the carriers immediately when equipment is released, or advising them in advance of the approximate time it will be released; (6) by instructing that their shipments be moved via the shortest practicable route.

Shortage of equipment and the length of time in transit are of mutual interest to both the carriers and shippers. By the producers' helping the transport agencies in the foregoing respects, they will assist the carriers in performing the maximum service with a minimum number of units of equipment and thus prevent car shortage and tremendous losses to the producers, and thereby aid in the war effort.



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MARKETS

Livestock Markets

By Clarence A. Anderson

LIVESTOCK PRICES DECLINED
gradually from the middle of April well into May. Demand, however, continued to be broad and there was keen competition for all desirable grades of cattle and hogs, which ordinarily would reflect in a stronger market at normal times. But, the usual



C. A. Anderson

law of supply and demand was offset by the extreme pressure of wartime and dictated price ceilings on wholesale and retail meat products which compelled livestock buyers to stay within prescribed limits or incur losses for the processors.

Following the warning in early April by the food administrator that live hog prices would be pegged at a ceiling of \$14.50 per cwt. if other reduction methods failed, values eased downward and by mid-May Chicago top prices virtually were at the \$14.50 mark. As a result, the gross margin between the wholesale product value and that of live hog prices was only around 15 cents minus for the week of May 8 as compared with approximately \$1.21 loss for the corresponding week in April.

A further "roll back" of wholesale and retail prices was intimated for June 1. Thus it becomes apparent that competition and the urgent need of a large volume of meat for civilians and the armed services will not bring about any great strength in the livestock market for the present.

Slaughterers favored cattle with considerable weight. At the same time, feeders were reluctant to carry their steers for long periods on feed in the face of increased corn prices, and light stockers suitable for grazing found the best demand in the stocker and feeder division.

There was a slight increase in the number of choice to prime steers available at Chicago. Approximately 15.7 per cent of the beef steers sold graded choice to prime for the month of April as compared with 12.2 in March and 9.9 in April, 1942. Good kinds constituted 50.7 per cent as against 44.5 a year ago, while medium kinds were 31.50 and 42.8, respectively. The average prices of all grades of steers for the week ending May 8 this year was \$15.37 against \$15.75 the same week in April, but choice to prime stood at \$16.60 and \$17.25, respectively. All grades for the month of April

averaged \$15.71 as compared with \$13.25 the same month last year.

Slaughter of cattle under federal inspection during April was about 160,000 less than the same month a year ago, while calves turned up 137,000 fewer and sheep 112,000 fewer. Hogs showed a gain of around 266,500. However, for the 10 months from July 1, 1942, to April 30, 1943, cattle slaughter increased about 250,000 over the same period last year, sheep nearly 3,000,000, hogs 4,600,000, while calves showed a decrease of 163,500 head. What degree of influence the black market has had on slaughter recently is only speculative.

Compared with a month ago, good to choice fed steers averaged weak to 25 cents lower on most of the markets, while lower grades as well as heifers and cows were 25 to 50 cents off. Bulls were very uneven but demand was somewhat more active and prices were all the way from 25 cents higher to 25 cents lower, lightweight common to medium kinds showing the weakness. Vealers were strong to as much as \$1.50 higher.

Choice to prime fed steers showed very little price fluctuation from the previous month at Chicago and best topped at \$17.75, while there were quite a few sales at \$17.25 to \$17.65. Practical top on long yearlings was \$17.25. The bulk of good to choice steers sold at \$14.75 to \$17 and medium kinds at \$13.75 to \$15.25, little going in this class late at \$14.75. Only short-feds had to sell below \$13.50. Strictly choice heifers sold sparingly up to \$17, but later only a few consignments were to be had above \$16.75, with

WHALE STEAKS

Whale steaks, which are dark red and, judging from the testimony of those who have tried them, taste something like beef, may soon be available on the western coast, according to reports. Because whales are mammals and not fish, the juiciest and tenderest meat comes from young whales, just as the best beef comes from young steers and not from old cattle that have been on the range too long. One prime whale will furnish about as much meat as 125 cattle, and a full-grown whale may weigh about 70 tons, of which approximately 50 tons is boneless meat. The greater part of the remainder consists of bone, blubber, and viscera. During the last war whale meat was eaten in this country in fairly large quantities, it is stated.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

the bulk clearing at \$14 to \$16.25. Strictly good beef cows occasionally sold at \$14 to \$14.80, but most of the medium to good went at \$11.75 to \$13.50 and cutters and common at \$9.75 to \$11. Canners were to be had at \$7 to \$8.50. Practical limit on heavy beef and sausage bulls was \$14, and generally they sold all the way down to \$12.75, while light and low grade kinds were fairly numerous at \$10 to \$12.25. Good and choice vealers ranged from \$15 to \$16.50, very little going above \$16.

A few loads of choice to prime steers, fed approximately 18 months, sold in Omaha at \$17.10 to \$17.35, while other choice loads made \$16 to \$17. Good to choice bulked at \$14.75 to \$16.50 and there were many medium to good kinds at \$13.50 to \$14.50. Practical top on heifers stood at \$15.65 although some early reached \$16.35, and the prevailing range was between \$13.75 and \$15.25, many medium grades going down to \$12.75 and below. Medium to good cows turned at \$10.50 to \$13.50, with cutters and common at \$8.25 to \$10.25 and canners down to \$7. Common to good bulls ranged from \$10 to \$13.75.

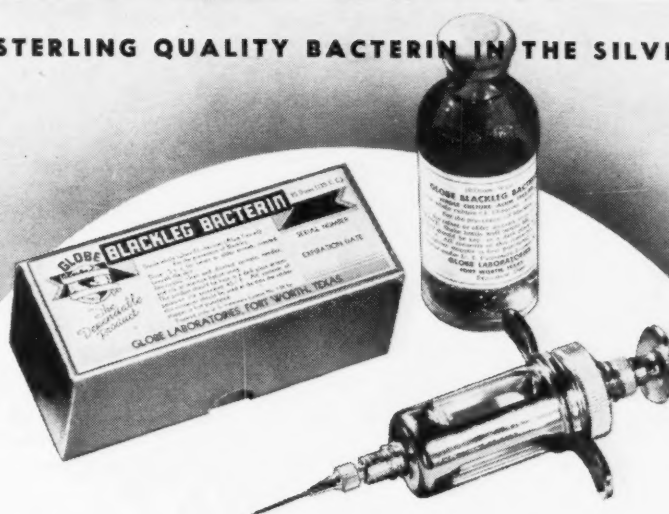
Fed steers, after going sharply lower in mid-April at Kansas City, fluctuated mildly and some of the early loss was regained. A new top of \$17.10 was uncovered the week of May 1 on some outstanding quality steers, but very little sold at \$16.75 and above, as a rule. The bulk of good to choice scored \$15.50 to \$16.65, with medium to good kinds at \$13.50 to \$15.50, and short-feds at \$12 to \$13.25. Good to choice heifers bulked at \$14.50 to \$16, although there were choice loads up to \$16.75. Common to good cows found a ready market at \$10.50 to \$13 with some beef kinds up to \$13.50. Canners and cutters turned at \$6.50 to \$10.75. Bulls were obtained at \$11.50 to \$13.

At St. Joseph slaughter cattle showed declines similar to those of the other markets, with choice steers selling between \$15.75 and \$16.65, while medium to good netted \$13.50 to \$15.50. Medium to choice heifers earned \$13.50 to \$15.75, in the main, with a few \$15.90. Best cows reached \$13.75, with the bulk at \$10 to \$12.50. Practical vealer top was \$14.50.

Choice to prime steers topped at \$17.25 in April at Sioux City but late did not sell above \$16.75, and the bulk good to choice were marketed at \$15 to \$16.50. Good to choice heifers sold from \$15 to \$16.50, with little above \$16 late. Beef cows were taken at \$11 to \$13.75. Bulls sold from \$12.25 to \$13.75 with some beef kinds up to \$14.35. Top on vealers was \$15.50.

Strictly choice steers sold up to \$17 at St. Paul, and the bulk of good to choice found clearance at \$15.50 to \$16.75, with medium to good largely at \$13.50 to \$15.25. Most of the heifers were marketed at \$13.50 to \$15.50, with a few at \$16, while cows reached \$13.50 quite freely. Vealers maintained a strong un-

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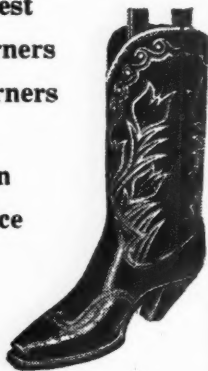
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dertone throughout and sold readily at \$13.50 to \$16.

West Coast packer buyers continued to offer sharp competition at Denver and at times took from one-third to one-half of the available fat steers, while some shipments were made to the Northwest and the slaughter plants of Idaho and Utah. Average choice steers sold sparingly at \$16 to \$16.25, but the bulk of good to choice ranged from \$14.75 to \$15.90, and numerous loads of medium to good cleared at \$13.50 to \$14.50. Best heifers turned at \$15.85 to \$16.10, and the largest volume of good to choice scored \$14.75 to \$15.75, with many loads medium to good at \$13.50 to \$14.50. Only odd lots of cows reached \$12.75 in April and comparable kinds had to sell at \$12 to \$12.50 later, with the bulk of medium to good at \$10.75 to \$11.75. Cutter and common kinds sold at \$9 to \$10.50, with canners at \$7.50 to \$8.75 and shelly lots down to \$6. Very few bulls sold at \$12.75, although a few individuals were to be had at \$13 to \$13.25. Common light bulls scored \$9.50 to \$10.50. Vealers showed a stronger undertone late and sold quite freely at \$15 to \$15.50, while at the low point \$15 was the practical limit. Heavy calves were extremely hard to get for slaughter, as country buyers consistently outbid on them.

Eastern order buyers had urgent orders to fill on the Chicago and some of the midwestern markets and offered sharp competition inasmuch as the wholesale markets in New York and adjacent points were hard pressed at all times to supply the metropolitan sections with any kind of meat compatible with the demand. Selection of cuts generally was out of the question.

Stockers and Feeders

Demand for stockers and feeders was centered on thin lightweight offerings and calves suitable for grazing and the more economical feeds. Consequently the thin yearlings held relatively steady to strong, while calves were strong to 25 cents higher. On the other hand, weighty feeders were weak to 25 cents lower, with some sales as much as 50 cents or more off. Stock cows and heifers also found some price decline, but those for breeding purposes continued to find fairly broad demand. There was considerable hesitancy by feed-lot operators to take on a large volume of fleshy feeder steers at the prevailing high cost of concentrates and other feed and rising costs and the difficulty of securing labor.

Bulk of good and choice whitefaced steers sold at \$14 to \$15 at Kansas City while good, thin two-year-olds around 800 pounds brought \$15.35. Comparable kinds had sold at \$15.50 and \$15.60 in mid-April. Some good and choice 525- to 650-pound yearlings made \$15.50 to \$15.90, with sorted lightweights at \$16.25 as compared with \$16.40 for best kinds about four weeks earlier. Extreme top on yearlings May 17 was \$16.50. Good and choice 471-pound steer calves

reached \$17, while some around 300 pounds selection brought \$17.50. Medium and good steers of mixed breeds sold at \$12.75 to \$14, while common Mexicans sold down to \$11. Good and choice white faced feeding heifers cleared at \$13.25 and \$14.50; some between 500 and 600 pounds reached \$15. Good range stock cows with lightweight calves at sides generally sold from \$12.75 to \$13.50, with some springer heifers from two to three years old selling up to \$13.75. Good and choice 125- to 200-pound range-bred calves sold from \$18 to \$21 and some comparable weight natives earned \$14.50 to \$18. Some 390-pound heifer calves made \$16. The average cost of all calves for the week of May 14 figured \$14.99 against \$14.96 a month previous.

At Chicago some choice light yearlings sold at \$16 to \$16.85 with fleshy kinds up to \$17. However the light supply sold mainly at \$14 to \$15.75. At Denver a load of choice 586-pound steers reached \$16.75, but most carlots of strictly good to choice had to sell at \$14.75 to \$15, with some 575- to 631-pound heifers at \$14.50. A few loads of cows made \$10.65 to \$11.10 and with calves at their sides went at \$18 to \$19. Several loads of Angus heifer calves made \$20.25, while vealer weight white-faced calves scored \$18 to \$21 with a few netting \$22.

Shipments of extremely thin calves and yearlings from the Mexican border continued to be heavy and were destined for the more abundant ranges of Wyoming, Montana, and South Dakota.

Hogs

Hog prices settled down to approximately the ceiling level proposed by the food administrator last month, but desperate buying for numbers made it difficult to maintain values at that level. During the course of a month butcher hogs declined from 50 to 75 cents, with some extremes 90 cents lower. Sows shared in most of the decline. Top at Chicago in mid-April was \$15.35, but gradual shaving of prices brought values down to \$14.45 by the time the new dollars-and-cents price ceilings were placed into effect on May 17 on retail cuts of meat. However, there was a persistently strong undertone, with some sales going back up to \$14.65. The late bulk of good to choice 180- to 360-pound butchers sold at \$14.20 to \$14.50, with 150- to 180-pound offerings at \$13.50 to \$14.85. Late sales of good to choice sows were made at \$14 to \$14.25.

Sheep and Lambs

Development of spring lambs became brighter with the improvement of ranges between April 15 and May 15. Rather than competing with beef products on the West Coast, lamb became a necessary substitute for the unfilled demand for other meats required by the influx of war workers, and some of the packers quotas for beef and veal were turned into quotas for additional slaughter of lamb and mutton. Consequently, much

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

of the early lamb movement which normally went east was diverted to the West Coast and additional shipments were made from Arizona. Eastern shipment from California this season was about 25,000 as against 167,000 last year, which in itself was relatively smaller than normal. Movement of lambs from the southeastern and southern states, as well as some of the Rocky Mountain areas was somewhat delayed by cool weather and late growth of pastures, but general rains found rapid improvement in most sections.

At the present time, fat lambs are fully steady to 25 cents higher than a month ago. However, general quality of the fed lambs has deteriorated, and many feed-lots are about emptied. At Chicago fed woolled lambs sold up to \$16.35, with most sales of good and choice at \$15.50 to \$16.15. Good to choice fed shorn lambs with No. 1 and 2 pelts cleared at \$14.35 to \$15.25, while some with nearly full wool growth went up to \$15.50. Choice native spring lambs reached \$16.25. The light supply of woolled ewes scored \$8.75 to \$9.50, while the predominant run of shorn ewes found outlet at \$7.75 to \$8.25.

Good and choice fed woolled lambs cleared in a range of \$15 to \$15.90 on the various Missouri River markets, with comparable shorn lambs, No. 1 and 2 pelts, at \$14.50 to \$15, and spring lambs at \$15.25 to \$16. Shearing lambs cleared largely in a range of \$14.50 to \$15.25 with a few at \$15.35. Old-crop feeding lambs became scarce and most late offerings were shorn assortments ranging from \$13.75 to \$14.25. Some new crop feeders were available at \$14.25 to \$15.25.

There was considerable tightening up of interpretations of when a lamb becomes a yearling or an animal becomes mutton in the grading of meat. In disputed cases the "mouthing" of the animals was resorted to. Therefore at most market centers yearling wethers were discounted \$1 from the fat-lamb price, and older wethers at a corresponding lower bracket.

Colorado feed-lots were nearing the end of their operations for the season, and good and choice woolled offerings sold at \$15.40 to \$16 at Denver, the latter prices on a flat and also freight paid basis.

WOOL AND HIDE TRADE

By C. A. A.

TRADING IN WOOL WAS GENERALLY quiet as consignments of wool from Idaho, Colorado, Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico were being received for grading. On April 25, War Food Administration orders became effective requiring that domestic wool which had not been sold by producers as of that date could only be sold to, and purchased by, the Commodity Credit Corporation. Pending the grading and appraising of

wools received on consignment to the Commodity Credit Corporation, manufacturers and top-makers made little inquiry for either domestic or foreign wools, having been heavy purchasers of previously contracted wools.

The government purchase program, officials stated in issuing the order, is to stabilize wool prices for United States wool growers and to aid in maintaining sheep numbers and wool production. The order applies to both shorn and pulled domestic wool, which will be purchased through handlers and then sold to manufacturers at ceiling prices. Purchases are being made through established dealers and co-operative associations who enter into agreements and act as agents of the CCC and who have handled a minimum of 400,000 pounds of domestic wool per year for two years or longer. Ceiling prices will be paid on the basis of official appraisals, less transportation and handling charges, and an allowance of 1½ cents per grease pound to cover costs of appraisal, storage, interest, and other expenses of the CCC.

The order did not apply to wool sold by the producers prior to April 25, irrespective of when the wool may be delivered, but the order provides that contracts for the sale of such wool shall be available for examination and shall be subject to appraisal by government.

Permits for buying wools in South America expired on April 30, and up to May 13 no licenses had been granted to import from Argentina and Montevideo. Some Australian wools were offered but were of less desirable types. A few New Zealand three-eighths wools were sold to be used in army blankets.

Recent requests were made by the Quartermaster Corps for bids on around 1,200,000 olive drab serge coats, 8,876,000 olive drab flannel shirts, 149,228 high-neck sweaters, and 136,589 sleeveless sweaters, in addition to 27,000,000 pairs of socks. Specifications for the socks required either straight domestic wool or 60 per cent domestic and 40 per cent foreign. Sweater yarn specifications were for all domestic, or a 50-50 per centage of foreign and domestic.

Weekly average of wool consumption for February on a grease basis was 19,216,000 pounds, consisting of 9,940,000 pounds of domestic and 9,276,000 pounds of foreign wool.

Following the restrictions on sales of domestic wool under which only lots of less than 1,000 pounds were allowed to be purchased by secondary or country handlers, some small lots of fleece wools were bought at the following grease prices to producers: Michigan 46 to 48 cents for bright medium; Tennessee, 50 cents; Missouri, 45 cents for medium; and Iowa, a wide range of 38 to 45 cents for average and bright medium wool.

In Texas a sale of 30,000 pounds of good staple, 12 months wool was made at a grease price of 49 cents, delivered mill. Earlier a sale of 20,000 fleeces of

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fine wools for future delivery was made in Rawlins, Wyo., at a grease price of 40 cents, while Belle Fourche wools were purchased at f. o. b. grease prices ranging from 45 to 48 cents for fine medium, light shrinking wools.

Mohair continued in demand, and ceiling prices prevailed, odd lots good to choice being purchased in Texas at 60 cents for adult and 80 cents for kid, while average Texas and good New Mexico adult made 50 to 55 cents and kid sold at 70 cents.

Hides

Ceiling prices prevailed and consequently virtually no changes in values took place. Heavy and light steer and cow hides, from packer take-offs were quoted around 15½ cents, while branded steer and cow hides brought 14 cents and native bulls 12 cents. Dry flint hides, averaging from 28 to 42 pounds, were quoted up to 15 cents to country sellers; bull, 8 to 9 cents with some up to 10¼ cents. Packer calfskins netted around 27 cents and packer kipskins 20 cents.

INDIANA-ILLINOIS CATTLE REPORT

By David I. Day

FROM THE NORTHEASTERN CORNER of Indiana, with its hundreds of blue lakes and outstanding dairy and poultry farms, we motored through Wabash and Peru, noting more cattle on feed along the upper reaches of the Wabash River, and, while there was an unusual number of spring pigs lost this year, there were literally thousands of young porkers on pasture.



David I. Day

There is a feeling of grave uncertainty among the livestock feeders contacted en route southward through Kokomo, Elwood, Noblesville, and into Indianapolis. All feel that the future of the business, as far as can be noted now, is tied up with the war. Experts on the radio are as much at variance as to when the war will end as are the farmers plowing their fields. The most optimistic feel that peace will come in 1944. The most pessimistic believe the conflict will be raging still three or four years from now.

Perhaps the soundest position is being taken by a farmer and feeder we met, with 175 whiteface steers headed for early September marketing. He said: "Farmers as a whole take the situation from the wrong angle. If the war ended today, I don't believe the value of these cattle would be affected much. Let us remember the job we have of feeding

millions of people after the conflict stops. Factories will run here for years, taking up the slack in our domestic market. Personally, I look for 10 years of good business and good prices with soldiers discharged slowly over a period of years, only as they have good jobs awaiting them."

Much rain fell in Indiana this spring and some of the pastures are a bit watery, but everywhere the forage in grass and clover fields is abundant. There are plans now in the making in many localities to increase slightly the number of fall cattle purchased from the West. In all communities, the farmers think the number brought in next fall will at least equal the number imported last fall. It will depend to some extent upon how the feed crops show up by late summer, the prices asked for feeder calves, and certain other considerations.

Farm work is behind schedule in the Hoosier State, mostly because the weather last fall and winter was not favorable for plowing and this spring the showers have come too frequently. If this picture projects itself into the summer work schedule, it will surely have an adverse effect upon the desire of the small farmer-feeder for cattle or other livestock to feed.

Many fine herds of Shorthorns are seen in the vicinity of Noblesville, some of national fame. In the vicinity of Greencastle, there appears to be more interest in commercial and registered beef cattle. Since Civil War days, this locality has had well-known breeders of Shorthorns. Quite a lot of holdover grain was on farms en route down from the lake country, but many said the hay was short and the silos, trench and otherwise, if not empty, were getting low.

We went into Terre Haute at night and out of this old city early in the morning, so we failed to get anything of interest. The fine dairy herds in the county are still operating with slight reduction in size, I understood, and farther out, especially northward, are to be seen beef cattle of all breeds, including some exceedingly fine purebred herds of Aberdeen-Angus.

Westward into Marshall, Ill., in Clark County, conversation centered more on the price of hogs, which had declined, narrowing the profits of all who were feeding much grain to the animals. There appears to be a little increase in the number of western and native calves which will be ready for late summer and fall marketing. There is a disposition among many to increase the emergency pasture acreage, especially sudan grass, and to put up more hay for next winter and more silage. In the minds of many is the thought to try feeding more on grass and stored roughage, less on grain, and accept a little less money at market time.

Northward into Edgar County, a good beef feeding locality, the number of beef cattle on hand appeared practically un-

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changed from that of May, 1942. Most of the animals seen in pastures and lots were Herefords and a large percentage were the better kinds. There is a nice interest in this part of Illinois in club feeding, both 4-H and Future Farmers. The feed situation is good and will continue good in this territory with a fair to good crop this summer.

Westward into Douglas County, all directions from Tuscola, we found an excellent grain locality. Some farmers felt there were more beef cattle than for some years, but the county agent felt the number was about the same as last spring. For several years past, there has been quite a strong trend toward calf production on the farms. Many small farm herds have been established the past five years. The price of western calves was regarded as too high. This year the number of native calves in the hands of farmers probably equals or exceeds the number of westerns.

I was much impressed with Douglas County, not only as a fine beef cattle territory, but as a general farming locality inhabited by high-class rural folk. There is that spirit of progress and an atmosphere of real endeavor which make land worth more no matter where found.

Conditions in Coles, Cumberland, Jasper, and Crawford counties were much the same as in other counties already described—about the same number of cattle on feed, many small farm beef herds started or planned, registered herds selling readily all the good young stock they would let go and at nice prices, farm work behind schedule, farmers trying to grow more food and feed despite many difficulties and obstacles. Local pride in the nationally known beef herds is running strong now that good breeding stock is so much desired by so many farmers. Many compliments came unsolicited regarding various herds.

I had a pleasant visit with a farmer named Howlett who has two farms, one in the hills of southern Illinois where he raises feeder calves and one in the fertile Wabash River Valley where he raises corn, lots of hay, and some small grains. He believes this idea will become popular, as transportation seems to be the weak point in our American system. Said he: "The war proves that we have the men and material but not the means of moving them fast enough. The hill country in this state will raise all the calves the grain-growing counties can feed out and the transportation is a small item. I believe, too, that little rivers like the Wabash will be utilized for freight transportation. After the war, there will be more towboats than we can use on the big rivers and we will put the little rivers back to work."

During the fattening period, this man uses a mixed fattener made of four parts ground low-grade wheat, four parts ground oats, six parts ground shelled corn, and six parts ground barley. Every day he pours diluted feeding molasses over the mixture in the feed bunkers.

CHICAGO LIVESTOCK PRICES

	May 17, 1943	April 16, 1943	May 15, 1943
Slaughter Steers—Choice (1,100-1,500 lbs.)	\$16.50-17.50	\$16.75-17.75	\$15.00-16.50
Slaughter Steers—Good	15.00-16.50	15.50-16.75	13.00-15.00
Slaughter Steers—Choice (900-1,100 lbs.)	16.25-17.25	16.75-17.50	14.75-16.50
Slaughter Steers—Good	14.75-16.25	15.25-16.75	13.00-15.00
Slaughter Steers—Med. (700-1,300 lbs.)	12.75-15.00	13.00-15.50	11.25-13.00
Fed Young Steers—Gd.-Ch. (700-900 lbs.)	14.50-17.00	15.25-17.00	13.00-16.25
Heifers—Good-Choice	14.00-16.75	14.75-17.00	12.75-14.75
Cows—Good	13.25-14.00	13.50-14.75	10.50-11.25
Vealers—Good-Choice	15.00-16.50	13.50-16.00	14.50-15.50
Calves—Good-Choice	12.00-14.00	11.50-13.50	11.50-13.00
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Gd.-Ch.	14.00-16.00	13.75-16.25	11.75-14.25
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Com.-Med.	11.75-14.00	11.75-13.75	9.50-11.75
Hogs—Med. Weights (200-240 lbs.)	14.35-14.60	15.00-15.25	14.05-14.25
Lambs—Good-Choice	15.50-16.15	15.50-16.00	14.00-15.10
Lambs (Shorn)—Good-Choice	14.25-15.25		13.00-14.00
Ewes—Good-Choice	7.25- 8.25*	8.00- 9.50	8.00- 8.75

*Shorn.

WHOLESALE DRESSED MEATS

	New York May 17, 1943	New York April 16, 1943	Chicago May 15, 1943
FRESH BEEF AND VEAL—			
Steer and Heifer—Choice (700 lbs. up)	\$23.50-23.75	\$23.50-23.75	\$21.00-22.00†
Steer and Heifer—Good	22.50-22.75	22.50-22.75	19.50-21.00†
Steer and Heifer—Choice (500-700 lbs.)	23.50-23.75	23.50-23.75	21.00-22.00†
Yearling Steer and Heifer—Choice	23.50-23.75	23.50-23.75	21.00-22.00†
Yearling Steer and Heifer—Good	22.50-22.75	22.50-22.75	19.50-21.00†
Yearling Steer—Good	22.50-22.75	22.50-22.75	19.50-21.00
Cow—Commercial	20.50-20.75	20.50-20.75	16.50-17.00
Veal and Calf—Choice	23.50-23.75*	23.50-23.75*	21.00-23.00
Veal and Calf—Good	22.50-22.75*	22.50-22.75*	19.00-21.00

FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON—			
Lamb—Choice (all weights)	\$28.00-28.25	\$28.00-28.25	\$24.00-27.00
Lamb—Good	26.50-26.75	26.50-26.75	23.00-26.00
Ewe—Good	15.25-15.50	15.25-15.50	12.00-13.00
Ewe—Commercial	14.00-14.25	14.00-14.25	11.00-12.00

FRESH PORK CUTS—			
Loin—8-12 lbs. average	\$28.00-28.75	\$28.00-28.75	\$27.00-29.00

*Veal only. †Steer only.

LIVESTOCK AT STOCKYARDS

	1943	1942	First Four Months 1943	1942
RECEIPTS—				
Cattle*	1,291,930	1,329,451	5,119,710	5,039,639
Calves	368,592	485,738	1,506,017	1,772,645
Hogs	2,844,329	2,638,466	12,117,086	11,498,702
Sheep and Lambs	1,602,839	1,865,865	6,950,649	7,057,600
TOTAL SHIPMENTS†—				
Cattle*	740,969	552,985	2,481,903	1,849,791
Calves	154,692	171,411	627,885	626,801
Hogs	770,345	611,772	3,370,275	3,043,741
Sheep and Lambs	680,854	819,342	2,979,990	2,924,243
STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—				
Cattle*	340,650	273,429	1,097,434	879,605
Calves	52,894	67,764	180,789	235,805
Hogs	67,285	57,149	266,542	215,252
Sheep and Lambs	227,846	224,194	916,997	712,066
SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION—				
Cattle*	796,310	956,290	3,500,876	3,166,000
Calves	364,877	501,833	1,445,801	1,746,000
Hogs	4,462,705	4,196,365	18,889,867	15,953,000
Sheep and Lambs	1,457,866	1,569,762	5,970,944	5,859,000

*Exclusive of calves. †Includes stockers and feeders.

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

	May 1, 1943†	April 1, 1943	May 1, 1942	Five-Yr. Av.
Frozen Beef	82,987,000	88,347,000	107,253,000	55,600,000
Cured Beef*	9,945,000	9,389,000	19,631,000	14,695,000
Lamb and Mutton, Frozen	11,650,000	12,571,000	7,103,000	3,897,000
Frozen Pork	223,660,000	265,180,000	258,577,000	267,853,000
Dry Salt Pork*	116,914,000	136,991,000	88,818,000	89,452,000
Pickled Pork*	181,716,000	189,426,000	225,404,000	244,376,000
Frozen and Cured Trimmings and Edible Offal	85,417,000	78,902,000	107,861,000	80,320,000
Lard	140,878,000	120,620,000	120,153,000	194,291,000
Rendered Pork Fat**	7,564,000	7,644,000	6,131,000	†
Frozen Poultry	33,242,000	58,079,000	96,716,000	82,938,000

*Cured or in process of cure. †Subject to revision. ‡Previously included with lard.

Note: Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation and Food Distribution Administration reports of holdings not available for publication. Cold storage holdings figures include government stocks which are not available for publication. Meats frozen or placed in cure during April not available for publication.



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ROUND THE RANGE

Range and Stock Report

WESTERN RANGES AS OF MAY 1 had fair to very good feed conditions, according to the western livestock office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics at Denver. April weather conditions were favorable for new feed growth except in the dry sections of the Southwest.

Range feed conditions were good, with ample moisture in North Dakota and Montana. In South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, and Colorado range and pasture feeds were good but the top soil was dry with moisture needed. Oklahoma had fair to good feed but needed top moisture. Texas ranges needed moisture, but had good feed in the Panhandle plains, north and east, with dry short feed in the west, south, and southwest. New Mexico ranges were dry and needed rain, with very dry conditions in the southwest. Arizona ranges were poor in the south and central sections, with fair feed in the north. California had very good range and pasture feed. Utah and Nevada had good range feed with moisture needed. There was a marked

improvement in range feed in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington during April. Hay supplies had been fed close in most of the West, with a rather limited carry-over of old hay.

Cattle generally wintered in good condition, except in parts of the Southwest where it had been dry and in the Northeast where winter conditions were hard. Generally winter and spring losses were light except in limited local areas. Calf crop prospects were good, except in the areas where winter conditions were hard on cattle.

Sheep and ewe bands came through the winter and early spring in fair to good condition, but were not in so good condition as in recent years. Sheep were in good condition in Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and California, and in fairly good condition in Montana, Wyoming, and the Dakotas. Severe winter conditions were hard on sheep in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, and ewes were much below average condition. Sheep wintered well in New Mexico, but were facing very dry range feed. April weather conditions were generally favorable for late lambing except in the Northwest and parts of Montana.

RANGE BRANDIN'

There was times when a cowboy out ridin' around
Was supposed to brand up any long-ear he found.
Sometimes it was trouble, sometimes it was fun,
And, ag'in, there was times that it didn't git done.

Some nice afternoon you'd be ridin' along,
And tryin' to think of the words to a song—
A flash in the cedars! A sound of quick feet!
You had to be sudden, or else you was beat.

A tug and a crash as you tore through the brush.
You was out in the open, you felt the wind rush.
A long-ear all right! And you sailed the old loop,
You saw it go over his head with a swoop.

Then yore pony set back fer to give him the fall;
You tied him, and boy did he struggle and bawl!
But you'd ketched a big long-ear, and so you allowed
You shore had a mighty good right to be proud.

But perhaps when he jumped in the thick cedar brakes,
He got you outguessed, and you made a mistake.
Fer somehow you finished up out on the rim,
And a steep little canon between you and him.

Or yore hoss mebbys set his foot in a hole,
And you lit on the ground with a thump and a roll.
Yore hoss he got up and jest stood there and shook.
You felt like a fish that had swallowed a hook.

Yes, sometimes it was trouble, sometimes it was fun;
And, ag'in, there was times that it didn't git done.

—BRUCE KISKADDON.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

BULLETINS IN BRIEF

CHANGE IN HAY MAKING

Agricultural experts at Iowa State College say that hay making is going through drastic changes which reduce the amount of time and work required.

One of these changes is that hay in the future may be hauled from the field to the barn on sweep (or buck) rakes instead of hay racks. The experts found a growing practice of mounting a sweep rake on the chassis of an auto or truck. A machine of this type can travel up to 20 miles an hour. At the same time the farmer eliminates the use of the hay-loader in the field and all the hard labor of pitching the hay away from the loader on the rack.

Another method growing rapidly is to chop the hay either from the field green to make silage or as dry hay. The dry hay may be picked up from either swath or windrow. This is done with a new type machine called a field forage harvester. Hay is also chopped by stationary choppers at the barn or stack, the hay being hauled there in racks or with a sweep rake.

The big labor saving in chopped hay is the ease in feeding it. It also saves much mow space in the barn, though it must be much drier than hay stored loose in order to avoid danger of fire.

A third rapidly growing method of haymaking is to bale hay out of the windrow. This results in a saving of mow space rather than a reduction of labor.

TOO MUCH AND TOO FAST

It isn't what they eat but how they eat it that causes cows to bloat, according to animal husbandry experts at the Iowa State College. Eating too much and too fast is more liable to cause bloating than special types of pasturage. Preven-

RANGE IMPROVES IN MAY

Western range and pasture feed conditions were greatly improved by rains during the first half of May. Wyoming and Colorado ranges that were becoming dry have received ample rain. Rains also helped range and feed conditions in South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. Range and pasture feeds were improved by rain in Texas and northern and eastern New Mexico, although some areas received only enough precipitation to provide temporary relief. Ranges in southwestern New Mexico, southern Arizona, and parts of western Texas continue dry with short feed. Range feed west of the Rockies has been making a good growth, after a late start, with the added rain and warmer weather.—F. W. BEIER, JR., Western Livestock Statistician.

tion includes letting the cow drink before going to pasture and keeping her from filling up with water after she has loaded up with legumes. The cow should be fed bulky roughage before being turned on legume pastures for best results. Tests by the experts show that alfalfa forms a more compact mass than a similar weight of blue grass, explaining in part why one causes bloat and the other does not. Best treatment is to keep the cow moving. A bit inserted in the cow's mouth will induce belching. Another method is to insert a smooth, heavy hose into the cow's mouth and work it carefully into the paunch. After the gas has escaped the cow should be drenched through the tube with some antiferment recommended by a veterinarian. Ice packs or cold water poured on the bloated side will tend to check fermentation.

GRASS FOR PIGS

A report from Indiana has this to say on grass for pigs: "Pigs on alfalfa pasture consumed 17 bushels less corn and 573 pounds less protein feed in four feeding trials conducted at the Purdue University experimental swine farm than those fed in dry-lot. In these comparative feeding trials, 40 pigs in each of two lots were self-fed from weights of 70 to 218 pounds on corn and tankage."

CARE OF FEET

"How to Care for the Feet of Your Horses and Mules" is a booklet recently published by the Phoenix Manufacturing Co., Joliet, Ill. Write direct to that address for a free copy.

WOODEN GATES

A folder, "Wooden Fences and Gates," has recently been prepared by the Department of Agriculture. It gives plans that will help to meet the war-created shortage of metals. The folder is obtainable from the Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C. The number AWI-24 should be used in requesting a copy. It is free.

RANGE MANAGEMENT

"Range Management" is a recently published book of the American Forestry Series. It is written by Laurence A. Stoddart, professor of range management, and Arthur D. Smith, assistant professor of range management, at Utah State Agricultural College. The book encompasses a broad treatment of the subjects of range management, land conservation, and livestock production. Emphasis is placed on vegetation, water, and soil, based on the premise that conservation must be practiced for greatest possible range productivity. The volume also covers the topics of livestock management and meat production. The price is \$5, and McGraw-Hill Book Company is the publisher, at 330 W. 42nd St., New York City.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 4)

been obtained with more than 530 head of cattle on the Central Plains Experimental Range just south of the Wyoming line, near Nunn in northeastern Colorado, over a three-year period. Cattle for the studies represent the average type and quality being run in the Great Plains.

The average monthly weights and their corresponding gains for yearling Herefords are as follows:

Date	Average Weight (Pounds)	Average Gain per Month (Pounds)
May 10.....	395
June 10.....	478	83
July 10.....	540	62
August 10.....	603	63
September 10.....	648	45
October 10.....	679	31
November 10.....	679	0
Total.....		284

The outstanding fact here is that gains of 208 pounds per head were made during the first three months of the grazing season as compared with average gains of only 76 pounds for the last three months. This general relation has also been observed in other studies throughout the West, and our findings serve to confirm the results of others who graze cattle during similar seasons.

Various factors contribute to the trend of the gains observed. Cattle usually come out of the winter period in only fair condition and are susceptible to rapid gains on early lush grass. Fodder and mineral analyses of the principal forage species on the experimental

range near Nunn, Colo., indicate that forage quality is highest during the early part of the grazing season. The percentage of crude protein for blue gramma, one of the most important grasses, showed the following seasonal trend in 1942: May, 6.33; June, 7.29; July, 6.04; August, 5.25; November, 3.62.

Certain inherent tendencies in the growth rate of livestock apparently also play a part in the decline in weight gains in late summer.—CHARLES A. CONNAUGHTON, Fort Collins, Colo.

RANCHES CHANGING HANDS

Range conditions in southeastern Colorado are excellent and we had a very mild winter. More small and medium sized ranches recently have changed hands than at any time in the past several years. Most of the buyers are from Kansas and Texas. The price of pasture land has probably doubled since January 1. Some of these new men are crowding the old residents by buying up adjacent pasture land.—WILLKIE HAM, Prowers County, Colo.

NOT MUCH GRASS

I live on the Gila River at the foot of the Mogollon Mountains. There was little snow in the mountains during the winter, and the river is pretty low for this time of year. There is not much grass on the ranges, but the cattle are in pretty good shape. If rain comes in July, which is our rainy season, the cattle will be all right.—J. W. SHELLY, Grant County, N. M.



Inspection of meat products for the men in the army begins at point of origin, the federally inspected packing plant, and continues to the time the meat is actually delivered to the unit in the field. If by any chance anything "off color" develops anywhere in the area, a report is immediately made to the food laboratory where technicians go to work to trace the source of the trouble and issue, if necessary, stop orders to halt production of the offending item and rectify conditions.

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